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Bureaucrat to be Gorbachev's deputy

Ryzhkov heart attack adds to Soviet turmoil

From Mary Dejevsky in Moscow

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday secured most, but not all, of the powers he wants to rebuild his administration and promptly named a communist bureaucrat as his vice-president.

The political turmoil caused by the resignation of the foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, was compounded when the prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov, suffered a heart attack that is expected to precipitate his retirement.

Mr Ryzhkov was reported to have collapsed after a meeting of republic leaders and central government ministers on Tuesday evening, and Mr Gorbachev told the Congress of People's Deputies yesterday that his life was not in danger.

Gennadi Yanayev, who was later nominated as vice-president, told a news conference that "psychological pressure" had contributed to the prime minister's illness, and there were reports that his collapse came after a confrontation with the Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, at the meeting to discuss next year's budget. Unconfirmed reports suggested that Mr Gorbachev may unexpectedly have swung towards Mr Yeltsin's demands for devolution of economic powers to the republics in a final attempt to keep the Soviet Union together.

The prime minister has been the subject of virulent criticism for his preferred gentler route to reform, but survived attempts to force his resignation. Mr Gorbachev had not, however, indicated whether he would hold any post in the new cabinet.

Yesterday, Mr Gorbachev told the congress: "Last night, Nikolai Ivanovich had a heart seizure, a heart attack. He is in hospital. At the moment there is no threat to his life."

Mr Gorbachev went on to win agreement for the subordination of the government directly to the president, the creation of a national security council, a control commission, and an independent court to adjudicate in economic disputes. His plans for a state inspection commission to make sure central laws and directives were carried out were, however, rejected. Clauses defining the composition of the revamped federation council and the functions of the vice-president also failed to gain the required two-thirds majority.

This means the precise role Mr Yanayev will play remains unclear, although it seems likely that he will be closely involved in tackling ethnic conflicts across the country.

The scale of that problem and the strife in the Baltic republics seeking independence was again underlined at the congress when the commander of the Soviet Baltic fleet said that relations between the armed forces and local officials had reached flashpoint. "The extremists are creating conditions so that servicemen will have to use arms to defend their families and children," Admiral Vitaly Ivanov said. "How can we remain calm when molotov cocktails are being thrown form passing cars, when shots are fired from cars at our guards? These are our children against whom weapons are being used."

His remarks renewed fears that force would be used against nationalists in Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, where the Soviet troops are regarded as an occupying force. Nikolai Medvedev, a deputy from Lithuania, told reporters that concerted attacks on the Baltic republics were part of a campaign to win approval for stronger executive powers for Mr Gorbachev. "This was done deliberately to ease passage of the constitutional amendments. It could be used to demand the installation of presidential rule."

Mr Yanayev insisted in congress, however, that Mr Gorbachev would not abuse his new powers. "If anybody tries to suggest to me that Gorbachev is keeping some political monster in the shadows and with its help will introduce some draconian order, then I say this is nonsense." He and the president shared a refusal to use force. "My main fight will be against a political bacchanalia and vandalism, but by using democratic means, not by repression."

Mr Yancyev, a 53-year-old Russian, told the parliament: "I am a convinced communist to the depths of my soul", and for some, his nomination smacked of the old party apparatus. A career party official, he joined the secretariat of the party's central committee in July after resigning as head of the official trade union movement.

His nomination disappointed reformists who had hoped that Mr Shevardnadze, Mr Gorbachev's first choice, might return to the government. Some delegates suggested that this was a compromise appointment intended to silence criticism from conservatives, others that Mr Gorbachev was simply showing his true colours as a reluctant reformer.

Gorbachev's choice, page 7
Leading article, page 11

Gennadi Yanayev: rapid rise for party official

IAN STEWART

Galloping into the record books: Britain's favourite racehorse, Desert Orchid, defied his age — the grey will be 12 next week — to achieve a record fourth success in the King George VI Rank Chase at Kempton Park yesterday. He won by 12 lengths. Reports, pages 24, 28

INSIDE

Curb on sale of playing fields

The government is planning to curb sales of school playing fields as part of an effort to revitalise team games.

Robert Atkins, the sports minister, is determined to stop debt-ridden councils and public bodies selling land to developers..... Page 22

'Feeble' Deng

Deng Xiaoping, China's senior leader, looked feeble when he appeared in public for the first time in more than five months to cast his vote in local elections..... Page 9

King criticised

The Romanian government made an outspoken attack on former King Michael whom it deported after a brief and bizarre visit to his homeland. It accused him of carrying out a cheap stunt..... Page 18

Photograph, page 7

Spice of life

A little champagne, a little light exercise, a lot of gardening and garlic: Dame Vera Lynn's recipe for staying in shape at 73..... Page 14

Merger in doubt

Talks over the $370 million merger between ailing US airlines Pan American and TWA looked on the brink of collapse amid acrimonious allegations. Pan Am executives failed to attend a Christmas eve meeting with TWA..... Page 19

Gower in form

David Gower was unbeaten on 73 at the close of the first day of the second Test match against Australia in Melbourne, as England reached 239 for the loss of four wickets..... Page 28

INDEX

Towyn is lashed by wind and rain again

By Staff Reporters

RAIN storms in Towyn, Clwyd, where surge tides wrecked 2,800 homes last February, yesterday threatened to drive families from their homes for the second time in a year.

There were blizzards in the Scottish mountains, snow on high ground and flooding in many other parts of Britain. In the Midlands, strong winds broke power cables, leaving more than 3,000 homes without electricity in Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire.

The London Weather Centre said last night that conditions could be worse today.

A climber in the Cairngorms was badly injured when he fell 400ft after being hit by an avalanche on Christmas day. David Wharton, aged 27, of Derby, spent 24 hours on Braeriach, Britain's third highest mountain, before being spotted by an RAF mountain rescue team.

Police in Cumbria and south-west Scotland said conditions were atrocious after rivers burst their banks.

In Northern Ireland, gusting winds of more than 60mph closed the Foyle bridge in Londonderry and brought down power lines in Tyrone, Armagh and Fermanagh.

The Duke of Edinburgh's pheasant shoot at Sandringham, Norfolk, was called off, but about 1,000 people turned up at Seaburn beach, Sunderland, for the Boxing day charity dip.

Most major sports fixtures went ahead, although eight third and fourth division soccer matches were cancelled.

Photographs, page 3
Scottish rescue, page 3

Thousands of reservists face call-up for Gulf

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

COMPULSORY call-up papers for reservists are to be issued tomorrow if insufficient numbers of volunteers turn up for Gulf duty today.

Call-up papers for thousands of reservists have been printed and will be posted tomorrow, sources said yesterday. The decision to go for compulsory call-up will be taken by Tom King, the defence secretary, this evening after the final batch of volunteers has been assessed.

The development came as Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billière, commander of the British forces in the Gulf, gave a warning that President Saddam Hussein of Iraq could attack the allies before the January 15 United Nations deadline for him to quit Kuwait or face military action.

Sir Peter said on BBC television: "He will do something to take the initiative and if he decides he is going down the military road, he will try to take a military initiative and that initiative could well come before January 15. So there is nothing sacrosanct about January 15 in military terms."

Mr King had called for 1,500 volunteers but so far only about 500 have come forward. Volunteers, mostly those with medical qualifications, will arrive at Aldershot today for processing.

Many others said they would join up if their employers guaranteed them their jobs back after the Gulf conflict was over. Section 10 of the Reserve Forces Act was brought into effect to give volunteers that guarantee.

There have been discussions between the defence ministry and health department to ensure that all doctors and nurses sent to the Gulf are guaranteed jobs on their return and that their civilian pay rates are maintained.

General Sir Robert Pascoe, the Adjutant General, will be at the Royal Army Medical Corps centre at Keogh barracks, Aldershot, today to welcome volunteers. Each will receive a call-out "bounty" of £200 and undergo preliminary medical checks before being formally enlisted as regular soldiers under the act. The men and women will then go home on leave until refresher training early next month.

Diplomatic drive, page 8
Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 10

Iran keeps Rushdie death order

By Ruth Gledhill
Religious Affairs Reporter

IRAN's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, refused yesterday to lift the religious edict, or *fatwa*, calling for the death of Salman Rushdie, in spite of the novelist's public affirmation of the Muslim faith. Some British Muslims had called for the death threat to be lifted.

Mr Rushdie, whose novel, *The Satanic Verses*, enraged Muslims and strained relations between the British government and Iran, has announced that he will oppose the publication of his book in paperback. The best-selling novel has been translated into 15 languages.

Ayatollah's order, page 2

Moscow-bound food cargo goes missing

By Bruce Clark in Moscow and Richard Beeston

A CONSIGNMENT of British food destined for Moscow went missing yesterday, when it was supposed to be collected from the airport for distribution to needy Russians.

The disappearance of the cargo raised fears that the notoriously corrupt and inefficient Soviet distribution system may have been responsible, and that it could jeopardise future aid flights.

John Anderson, a charity worker from London, and the Soviet dissident Aleksandr Ogorodnikov who has been entrusted with distributing British gifts, spent a frustrating Christmas waiting for an Aeroflot cargo flight to arrive from Stansted.

Yesterday morning, they learned that the aircraft, on which the Soviet Embassy in London had promised some free space, had arrived late on Tuesday, but without the expected three tons of biscuits and baby milk.

The food, given by the British companies Milupa and United Biscuits, marked the first substantial response to an appeal launched in Britain a week ago for companies and individuals to send food to

Continued on page 18, col 1

Royal Marines halt Iraqi 'peace ship'

From Michael Theodoulou in Nicosia

AN IRAQI ship carrying more than 200 women peace activists, many from Europe, was forced yesterday to change course in the Arabian Sea after a boarding party that included Royal Marines scuffled with the crew and some of the women.

The marines, who landed on the ship by helicopter, were challenged by some of the passengers and crew, said Mark Newhart, a US Navy spokesman. The Iraqi-flag Ibn Khaldonn had refused to acknowledge requests to stop by the Australian destroyer, Sydney, which wanted to check its cargo. Warning shots were fired. "One of our guys was knocked over by one of the women," said Commander Newhart. The ship's Iraqi captain, keen to make the most of the incident, claimed two women had miscarried and two others had had heart attacks when they saw marines boarding the vessel. But a US Navy doctor said nobody was hurt. The captain later admitted that nobody needed to be taken to hospital.

The Ibn Khaldoun, dubbed the "peace ship" by Baghdad, was carrying 800 tons of sugar, a commodity outlawed by the United Nations embargo against Iraq. The captain agreed to divert the ship to an unidentified Omani port to unload the cargo.

Company-car spy to curb aggressive drivers

By Kevin Eason
Motoring Correspondent

AGGRESSIVE motorists among Britain's three million company car drivers could have their excesses curbed by a "spy in the cab" that records every detail of the speed and movement of their cars.

An aircraft-style black box about the size of video recorder can be plugged into a car's electronics, where it stores information for up to six weeks before being retrieved for study on the company computer. The device could be used to check on every aspect of driving, such as when a driver sets off on a journey and how fast he travels.

Doubts about the system are being dispelled by results that show large cuts in accident rates and increased fuel economy in vehicles fitted with the device. Since fitting the equipment one fleet, which had suffered a series of accidents including two fatalities, has not suffered a crash in which blame is attached to its drivers.

John Huish, marketing manager of ICS Black Box of Cardiff, which supplies the equipment, said motorists who knew their movements were recorded drove with more care. "The positive side is that companies can know exactly how best to use their vehicles, and the savings identified to both vehicles and employees have proved quite valuable."

The computer company ICL has fitted black boxes to 200 vans driven by its customer-services representatives. ICL has not suffered a blameworthy accident since installing the devices and its fleet fuel bill has dropped by 10 per cent. Mid-Glamorgan county council spent £8,000 on black boxes for commercial vehicles and made savings of £95,000, Mr Huish said. Although use of the £400 recorder is widespread on the Continent it has yet to make an impact in Britain.

The system is being introduced to Britain as firms face escalating costs because of higher fuel prices, insurance premiums and garage maintenance costs because of crash repairs. The black box's contribution to safety by curbing careless drivers will encourage companies, particularly in view of a recent survey by Gallup for General Accident, the motor insurer.

The survey painted a disturbing picture of the company car driver as weaving through traffic at speed and most likely to be involved in an accident or "scrape". Four in ten drink and drive while more than half of nearly 500 company drivers interviewed admitted to regularly exceeding the motorway speed limit by over 10mph, although the figure rose to 61 per cent among sales representatives. Of the company drivers interviewed 45 per cent believed it was "acceptable" to drive at up to 20mph over the speed limit on motorways, and 15 per cent of business drivers admitted they drove too close to the car in front.

The consequences were that a third of company car drivers had accidents in the past three years.

● The car industry faces a future "clouded with uncertainty", according to the January edition *Glass's Guide*. New car sales will fall below two million and there appear to be "many problems and few solutions", it says.

Ayatollah says death order on Rushdie can never be revoked

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

THE death order against Salman Rushdie will remain in force even if he becomes the most pious man of his time, Ayatollah Khamenei, Iran's spiritual leader, said yesterday as leading British Muslims prepared to meet tomorrow to discuss the author's disavowal of statements in his book *The Satanic Verses*.

The Ayatollah refused to withdraw the *fatwa* (religious decree) pronounced against the author's life, despite Mr Rushdie's undertaking not to publish a paperback edition of his novel.

Meanwhile, a friend of the author cast doubt on a claim by a leading British Muslim that Rushdie had converted to Islam, saying that he had merely affirmed the Islamic faith.

In a statement on Tehran Radio, Ayatollah Khamenei said: "As the Imam (the late Ayatollah Khomeini) said, the Islamic decree about the author of *The Satanic Verses* remains unchanged even if he repents and becomes the most pious man of his time." He said that "certain pseudo-Muslim persons" had helped in the author's repentance but it would not change the divine ruling which was issued in 1989.

"The Imam's edict ... and the Muslims' commitment to implement it are bearing their first fruits on the scene of confrontation between Islam and world infedility. Western arrogance, which had attacked the sanctities of a billion Muslims as a prelude to degrade Muslims and the Islamic renaissance in the world, has been forced to retreat in disgrace."

The Ayatollah added: "God willing, with the continued resistance of Muslims of the world, no one will henceforth dare insult the exalted Prophet of Islam and Islamic sanctities."

Mr Rushdie's disavowal came after a Christmas eve meeting with Muhammad Ali Mahgoub, Egyptian minster for *waqfs* (religious endowments), and other senior Muslim figures.

The author sanctioned a statement that said he accepted there was no God but Allah and that Muhammad was his last prophet. He said he did not agree with any statement in his novel uttered by any of the characters who insult the Islamic faith. He also undertook not to publish the paperback edition of *The Satanic Verses* or to permit further translations.

"I will continue to work for a better understanding of Islam in the world, as I have always attempted to in the past."

Dr Hesham el-Essawy, chairman of the Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance, sent a telegram to Ayatollah Khamenei suggesting that the *fatwa* be withdrawn. Dr el-Essawy has also invited the Ayatollah to send a religious delegation to meet the author.

Dr el-Essawy, who helped to bring about the public disavowal on Monday, said *Sharia*, or Islamic law, stipulated that a man who embraced or converted to Islam be totally forgiven. Dr el-Essawy said: "I have been informed that the reaction in the Arab and Egyptian world is almost ecstatic. The act of his conversion means that according to Islamic law his blood becomes sacrosanct and the *fatwa* becomes annulled. That means the slate is wiped clean. Salman Rushdie should be forgiven and should not be accountable for anything he has done before his conversion." He added: "I hope Khamenei will be brave enough to accept that the Islamic *Sharia* law should take precedence over Khomeini's *fatwa*, that closing the door of repentance is totally against the merciful nature of Islam and totally against the Koran."

He accused the Ayatollah of blasphemy in saying that the *fatwa* would always remain in force. "This assumes Khamenei is God and he is not. Only God can close the door that God opens."

However, Frances de Souza, director of the Article 19 human rights group which has forged close links with the author, yesterday doubted whether the author had suddenly become a devout Muslim. "He has talked about embracing the religion but not about converting. Conversion is not a word he has used. I think Salman feels very strongly that he has not necessarily changed his position."

"Salman and I talked about this at length over the weekend. He feels that there is undoubtedly a mystery to the origin of man. If one chooses to call that mystery God, so be it. He still calls it a mystery. He accepts the historical fact that Muhammad was a prophet, that he was a prophet of Allah. He has always accepted that the prophet was a prophet."

In Tehran, the hard-line newspaper *Jomhuri Eslami* said Rushdie should prepare himself for a brave death. "If Rushdie's repentance and his return to Islam is seen as a sign of his braveness, naturally it is necessary that he shows greater braveness and prepares himself for death.

"If Rushdie could not live bravely, perhaps it would be befitting that he dies bravely by welcoming the execution of the divine edict ... He will die anyway, but he will be better off to choose his way to eternal salvation courageously before a son of Islam fires the coup de grace," the paper said.

Iqbal Sacranie, joint convenor of the UK action committee on Islamic Affairs, the group that has co-ordinated the Muslim campaign against the book, said Muslim scholars still considered the book deeply offensive and were calling for it to be withdrawn. The group' steering committee is meeting tomorrow.

Mr Sacranie said: "The UK action committee acknowledges that these moves represent a step in the right direction. However, the action committee sincerely feels that at the time of the public affirmation of his acceptance of Islam and his intention not to risk further offence it would have been most appropriate for the author to take full measures to have the offensive book withdrawn from circulation altogether.

"Indeed, it is his religious duty to do so."

Tory refuses to help MPs' study of Iraqi supergun allegations

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

A CONSERVATIVE MP has refused to appear before a Commons enquiry for questioning about the manufacture of steel tubes for an Iraqi supergun.

Sir Hal Miller, MP for Bromsgrove, has taken the rare step of turning down a request by a Commons select committee to explain allegations he made in the Commons in April that government officials ignored his warnings about a British firm breaking the arms embargo against Iraq.

The Commons trade and industry committee will decide later in the investigation whether to press Sir Hal to appear before it. Commons officials believe, however, that there are few sanctions available to select committees to compel reluctant backbench MPs to give evidence, although ministers and senior civil servants can be ordered to appear.

Sir Hal said yesterday: "I do not see what good it will do. I have no wish to embarrass the government. The committee's enquiry is singularly ill-timed when conflict is about to break out in the Gulf. I see no point in it and want no part of it."

Sir Hal alleged in the Commons last spring that he had alerted trade, defence and security service officials two years ago to Iraqi orders placed with a Midlands forgings company, Walter Somers. However, he has now told the committee that he has no fresh information since prosecutions against two businessmen have been dropped, and so does not intend to appear. His only interest, he said, was to see Peter Mitchell, managing director of Walter Somers, cleared of charges relating to the order.

Last April, the committee announced an investigation into allegations that British firms were not stopped by officials of the trade and industry department from breaching the arms embargo by making parts for the supergun for export to Iraq. The decision followed the seizure by customs officers at Teesport, Middlesbrough, of eight giant steel forgings, later discovered to be part of a supergun.


Sir Hal: says that enquiry by committee is ill-timed

However, the MPs immediately complied with a personal request from the then trade and industry secretary, Nicholas Ridley, to shelve the enquiry while prosecutions by Customs and Excise were pending. All charges against Mr Mitchell and Christopher Cowley, a metallurgist, of illegally exporting arms were dropped last month.

Kenneth Warren, the committee chairman, had hoped to hold a brief investigation into the handling of the export licence. However, the MPs are now predicting that the enquiry could be the biggest this parliament because of the conflicting written evidence received from officials and the firms involved in the contracts.

The enquiry has been widened to gather evidence of how government officials interpreted the international arms embargo against Iraq when considering the export of equipment during the nine-year Iran-Iraq war. The committee wants to find out the closeness of links between trade and customs officials when policing the embargo and checking on the manufacture in Britain of equipment that might have been intended for military use.

The committee also wants to know if and when Downing Street officials were told by customs officials of their fears that tubes and equipment made in Britain were meant for the Iraqi supergun.

Mr Ridley and the present trade secretary, Peter Lilley, will be questioned by the committee early next year.

Trade, customs and defence officials are expected to be called to give evidence together with executives of Sheffield Forgemasters, an engineering steelmaker, and Walter Somers.

The MPs already have a substantial file of written evidence, including details of exports to Iraq, since Britain signed the arms embargo six years ago.

TED BATH

Taking the festive air: ramblers setting a brisk pace yesterday at Christmas Common, near Watlington, in Oxfordshire

Wage procedure seen as employment hope

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

CO-ORDINATED wage bargaining is the only way to avoid a return to mass unemployment in Britain, according to a report published today.

The report by the pressure group Campaign for Work comes after the biggest monthly rise in unemployment for a decade. Figures released by the government showed unemployment rose by more than 57,000 in November.

Campaign for Work says that although unemployment heading back towards two million is making it once again a political issue, the political parties have no new ideas on how to solve the problem.

While joining the European exchange-rate mechanism at a lower rate would have been better, the campaign says, unemployment looks inevitable under present policies because Britain is crushed between annual pay growth of 10 per cent — double that of Germany — and a virtually fixed exchange rate.

The report suggests an alternative: greater co-ordination of wage bargaining, with pay settlements determined in an open and well-understood way. This approach has been suggested by union leaders but has been rejected by the government as a return to old-style 1970s corporatism and incomes policy.

The report says, however, that there would be no going rate for settlements. Instead, companies could reflect productivity and labour shortages in their pay awards while co-ordinated bargaining would provide "a sustainable spine around which pay increases can settle".

ERM entry offers a real opportunity for change in British wage bargaining by offering the discipline to resist a wage-price spiral and also a strong incentive to adopt European pay-bargaining structures, the report says. While there are obstacles to more co-ordinated bargaining, such as the absence of strong, centralised employer organisation, it suggests that membership of such bodies could be made compulsory in return for other concessions.

Industry cash support to universities 6.3%

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITIES derived only 6.3 per cent of their income from industry, and polytechnics much less, in 1987-1988, according to a study carried out for the trade and industry department.

Some universities now record a majority of income as coming from sources other than block grants, but much of it is from other government sources such as research councils. The survey suggests that the picture is less buoyant than thought.

Of almost £200 million contributed by industry to higher education, threequarters consisted of payment for teaching and research. The rest came in donations in cash or kind.

Gareth Williams and Cari Loder, of the London University Institute of Education, found that cuts in higher education budgets and government schemes which demanded industrial partnerships had encouraged institutions to seek more private funding.

The proportion of university funds from outside sources rose sharply in the 1980s. Industry's contribution might have been close to £225 million when royalties and consultancy fees were included, the researchers estimate.

Professor Williams and Dr Loder expect the polytechnic total of only £22 million from industry to have risen significantly since 1987-1988 because of polytechnics' subsequent independence from local authorities.

In a summary they forecast further increases for both sectors in the 1990s.

● The TUC today claims that a growing shortage of teachers in certain subjects will thwart full implementation of the National Curriculum and calls for Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, to survey supply and demand in the profession (Tim Jones writes).

Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, has written to Mr Clarke saying that Britain spends ing a lower proportion of national income on education than Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland and The Netherlands.

IRA hold to Christmas bomb truce

Against the expectations of the police and Army, the IRA's three-day Christmas ceasefire in Northern Ireland appeared to be holding last night with no breaches reported (Bob Rodwell writes).

The truce, announced through the Dublin offices of Sinn Fein on Sunday, was due to expire at midnight last night, when it was predicted that the IRA's full-scale bomb-and-bullet campaign would be resumed.

The Army and the RUC remained on full alert during the ceasefire, conditioned never to take the IRA's promises at face value, but no incidents were reported throughout the province.

Hopes that the truce, the first officially declared cessation, however temporary, of IRA operations for 16 years, could become permanent were expressed in Christmas Day sermons by several leading churchmen, including the two Archbishops of Armagh, the Anglican Dr Robin Eames, and the newly-installed Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, Dr Cahal Daly.

Arson attacks

A man bailed on arson charges on Christmas eve was remanded in custody by a special court in Belfast yesterday, charged with an arson attack on a shop on Christmas day. Steven McNerlin, aged 25, of no fixed address, was also accused of breaking into and stealing from the shoe shop. On Christmas eve, a court was told he had set fire to a car while on bail for another attack.

Fewer failures

Only two drivers failed breath tests on Christmas Day and a third refused to take a test in Strathclyde, Scotland's biggest police region with almost half of the 5 million population, despite many more tests being carried out, it was revealed yesterday. The figures compare with ten failures and one refusal on Christmas Day last year. On Chistmas Eve, 13 drivers failed, the same as last year.

Hunt for woman

Police were last night searching for a woman aged 78 who vanished wearing a nightdress, dressing gown and knee-length fur coat. Edna Sims disappeared from the home of her daughter at Pentir, Gwynedd, between 4am and 10am yesterday in gales and heavy rain. An RAF helicopter, mountain rescue team and volunteers joined in the hunt for Mrs Sims, who is from Kent.

Anti-hunt champion has not changed his spots

By JOHN YOUNG

RICHARD Course, the former director of the League Against Cruel Sports, is a man who seems to revel in public slanging matches, but who, in private conversation, comes across as courteous and reasonable.

Certainly nothing in his controversial career, which included his expulsion from the RSPCA and his ousting from the directorship of the league, could match his apparent conversion in May this year to the cause of continued staghunting on Exmoor.

Mr Course, aged 49, denies, however, that he has changed sides on the general issue of hunting. "I disapprove of it just as much as I ever did, and would like to see it banned," he said. "But it's a question of who does the banning. It's nonsense to suppose that it should be left to a few members of the National Trust. It's something that only Parliament can do.

"What I would like to see is a ban on all forms of killing deer. That would have to be accompanied by compensation for farmers for damage to crops, and a programme of selective culling to keep numbers down.

"But for the time being, if hunting were stopped, the farmers would shoot every deer in sight. There's no doubt about that. Deer do an enormous amount of damage and, with the added incentive of the value of the venison, they wouldn't stand a chance."

JULIAN HERBERT


But the hunt goes on: two members of the Old Berks Hunt at Abingdon, Oxfordshire, yesterday for the Boxing Day meet

In 1981, Mr Course, a Labour councillor in Enfield, north London, was sacked from the council of the RSPCA for allegedly leaking a report on extravagance by senior officials to the *Daily Mail*. A subsequent decision to reinstate him was overturned.

Four years later, Mr Course was again in the news when he described the Duke of Edinburgh as a wally. He said that the duke, as president of the then World Wildlife Fund, "loved nothing better than to blast away at low-flying, overfed, dozy pheasants with a double-barrelled shotgun".

"Someone, perhaps the Christian church, should tell Philip what morality is about," he added.

His outburst was immediately denounced by Lord Soper, the league's president and a Methodist preacher, who said that he objected strongly to the language used and wrote a letter of apology to the duke.

Two years later, in May 1988, Mr Course resigned after seven years as director, claiming that his £14,000 salary was too low and that he saw no prospect of a ban on hunting under a Conservative government. His critics, however, claimed that he had been forced out after personality clashes with staff and the executive.

Within weeks, Mr Course called for a department of trade enquiry into the league's affairs, alleging that payments had been made to Labour and Liberal parliamentary candidates without the members' knowledge, and that the accounts had concealed the transactions.

The league responded by bringing an unsuccessful action in the High Court, claiming that Mr Course was in contempt of court for breaching an undertaking not to show documents to the press or to talk to reporters.

DPP seeks greater advocacy rights for Crown solicitors

By Frances Gibb, legal affairs correspondent

ALLAN Green, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, is to press for solicitors in the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to be allowed to take cases in the crown court under the new machinery being set up to implement the government's legal reforms.

The move will trigger a new debate between the two branches of the legal profession over the breaking of the Bar's monopoly of rights of audience in the higher courts. Only members of the Bar have the right to appear in the crown court and the CPS has to brief barristers in private practice. Last year, this cost nearly £50 million.

Under the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, however, solicitors (and others) can apply to be granted the right to take cases in the higher courts, subject to adequate training and codes of conduct.

Mr Green has now made clear that he wants CPS lawyers to be included in the application being prepared by the Law Society, the solicitors' professional body, for wider advocacy rights for solicitors. There are about 1,500 lawyers in the service: two-thirds are solicitors and the remainder are barristers.

"I am most anxious," Mr Green said, "to ensure that experienced crown prosecutors secure the right to present appropriate cases in the crown court in future."

If the Law Society application is successful, CPS solicitors would have crown court advocacy rights, but the barristers would not. The rights are therefore likely to be extended to include them.

The service said: "To undertake rights of audience in the CPS you must be a fully qualified solicitor or barrister. Our lawyers gain so much experience daily in the courts that it would be wrong to treat them differently from other members of their professional body."

Applications for rights of audience in the higher courts must be submitted to the Lord Chancellor's new advisory committee by April. The Law Society application is likely to face fierce opposition from the Bar, which disagrees with the granting of such rights to barristers who are employed and are not at the independent Bar.

A Bar Council official observed: "If you think last year (covering the passage of the bill) was fun, the next few years will be much greater."

The Bar is expected to try to ensure that solicitor-advocates are subject to the same rules as barristers: in particular the Bar wants solicitors to be bound by the cab-rank rule (that cases must be taken in strict rotation). The Bar is also likely to argue that solicitors should not be allowed to prepare and present cases in the crown court, as they do in magistrates' courts.

The advisory committee considering the application will have to ensure, however, that the government's desire to break the Bar monopoly is not thwarted by rules.

The government's legal reforms, though now on the statute book, have not yet taken practical effect. The next stage, described by Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, during a Lords debate as a "choreographed quadrille", involves a complex process of consultation.

The new advisory committee, whose 16 members are now being appointed, is at the centre of this new machinery. The committee, chaired by Lord Griffiths, the Law Lord, will consult the professional bodies and the Director General of Fair Trading before drawing up new rules to govern the exercise of advocacy rights. The rules must then be approved by the four senior judges and Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor.

The Law Society is expected to submit a full claim for rights of audience for solicitors in all courts, but subject to rigorous training requirements. It is likely to seek immediate rights to conduct cases involving guilty pleas in the crown court and interlocutory applications in the High Court.

Green: CPS staff included in Law Society application

Search for baby heart returns to Britain

By Thomson Prentice, medical correspondent

THE search for an infant heart donor to save a baby in a London hospital was being concentrated in Britain yesterday after another child in Europe was given top priority for the operation.

Transplant specialists had extended the appeal on behalf of Christy Strachan, born nine days ago with an incurable heart defect, to the Continent. However, officials at the UK Transplant Co-ordinating Centre learned yesterday that a three-day-old baby in another European country was considered a more urgent case.

Christy is on life-support equipment at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and an aircraft of the St John Ambulance Brigade is on standby at Heathrow airport to transport an organ if one should become available.

Myc Riggulsford, a spokesman for the centre, said yesterday: "Because of this sad coincidence we now cannot expect a donor to be found outside of Britain, but we remain hopeful.

"A British donor always has been the best prospect because of the shorter travelling time involved for the transplant surgeons." He said European transplant co-ordinators, at Leiden in The Netherlands, had decided that a child awaiting the same operation in another, undisclosed country, was in more urgent need.

An infant heart did become available on Tuesday but was too big for either of the babies. Because there are relatively few potential donors, such as infants born with severe brain damage or who have been fatally injured in accidents, transplants of this kind are rarely performed.

Christy has hypoblastic left heart syndrome, one of the most common congenital heart defects, affecting about 200 babies a year in Britain. His parents, Mark and Tracey Strachan, of north London, are at his bedside.

EC urged to outlaw racial discrimination

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

A JOINT move to enable victims of alleged racial discrimination in any EC member state to bring a case to court is being made by the Law Society and the Bar.

Leaders of the two professional bodies have written to the European Commission saying that European community law should outlaw racial discrimination. They want a European community directive requiring members to legislate on the elimination of racial discrimination.

They also say that the European Convention on Human Rights should be amended to include a primary right to bring a case to the European Court of Justice on the grounds of racial discrimination alone. The letter points out that although there has been statutory racial discrimination law in the UK for more than 20 years, European legislation does not contain similar rights.

Peter Cresswell, QC, chairman of the Bar Council, said: "European legislation should give members of ethnic minority groups the same level of legal protection as they receive in this country. I hope that with the support of both branches of the legal profession a much needed change will be brought about."

Tony Holland, president of the Law Society, said: "Racial discrimination is one of the scourges of our time. I hope that by using the experience of the legal remedies in this country we can contribute to eliminating racial discrimination in all member states."

A welcome mat for scientists' dirty boots

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

SCIENTISTS at Shell's Sittingbourne Research Centre have been encouraged to come back from their holidays with mud on their boots — and the more exotic the source of the mud, the better.

The soil samples are screened for micro-organisms that may produce useful chemicals, the latest issue of *Chemistry in Britain* reports. Shell is particularly interested in organisms that make stagnant pools of water feel slimy, sure evidence that a natural polymer is being produced.

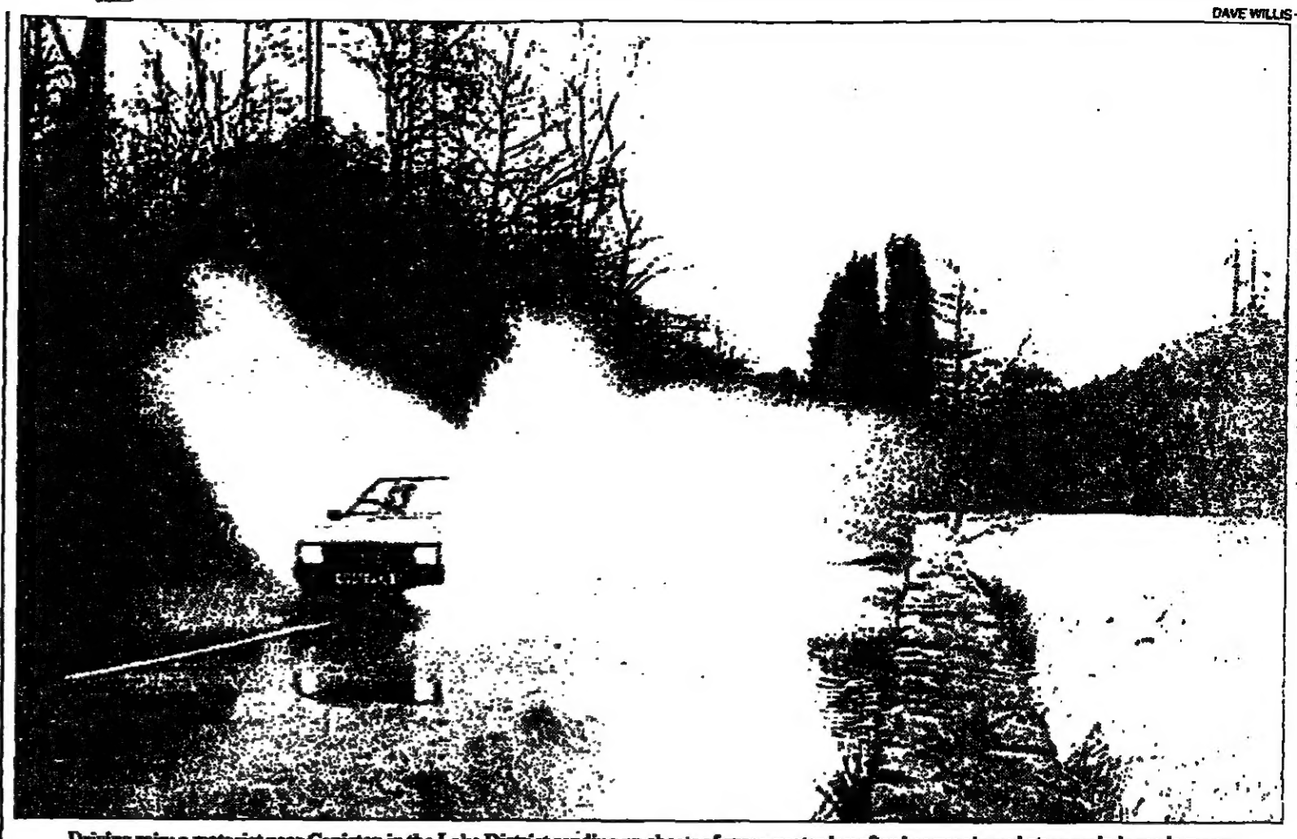
Polymers are used in drilling oil wells and in preparing them for production. During drilling, fluids are used to carry away the cuttings from the drill bit. Viscous fluids thickened by polymers are effective, but they must also flow smoothly so that they can be pumped away.

The structure of natural polymers makes them more effective than man-made ones because they possess hydrogen bonds that increase rigidity. When pumped, the molecules tend to line up, reducing the viscosity and making it easy to pump the slurry away.

Some natural polymers usefully change their properties at different temperatures. When cold, they are viscous, carrying the slurry out of the well during drilling. In contact with the warmer oil after the well has been drilled, the polymers "melt", ensuring that they do not block the pores in the rock to slow down the flow of oil or gas.

Shell scientists are constantly looking for new organisms that may offer better natural polymers. They often find the best varieties right outside the laboratory.

DAVE WILLIS



Driving rain: a motorist near Coniston in the Lake District sending up sheets of spray yesterday after heavy rain and strong winds made many of Cumbria's country roads little more than rivers, costing bookmakers £10,000 in "wet Christmas" bets

Climber safe in all-British rescue

By Kerry Gill

DAVID Wharton, who was badly injured and almost buried alive when he fell 400ft after being hit by an avalanche on Christmas Day, yesterday had the dubious honour almost certainly of being the first English climber to be rescued from a Scottish mountain with the help of a Welsh rescue team.

Mr Wharton, aged 27, of Derby, who survived for 24 hours trapped 3,400ft up Braeriach in the Cairngorms, Britain's third highest mountain, was spotted by a mountain rescue team from RAF St Athan in Wales who were on the 4,252ft peak on a training exercise.

Brian Ottewell, aged 42, Mr Wharton's companion, battled through the night in atrocious conditions to protect his friend and raise the alarm. He descended to a bothy, gathered survival bags and struggled back up the mountain to attend to Mr Wharton. In spite of often being blinded by snow storms he then went back down the mountain, navigating by compass, to call rescue services.

Mr Ottewell last night said he had since spoken to Mr Wharton by telephone. "He gave me a right blasting and asked what had taken me so long. I knew then he was OK," he said.

"Dave was about 100ft ahead of me. Suddenly the snow he was on started crackling and a big slab of it, about 40ft square, broke away. I stepped to the side and was safe, but Dave went whirling past me and another 300ft down the mountain.

"When I got to him he was conscious but dazed. He was in great pain and could not walk. I dragged him down the slope to a big boulder on a skyline which I knew would be a good landmark for rescuers," he said.

Mr Ottewell put his jacket on Mr Wharton and left him with coffee and food before going to the bothy where they had spent the night. He returned with two sleeping bags.

"I zipped him up completely, leaving only a small breathing hole. I built a makeshift shelter in front of him with rucksacks and gear and any small boulders I could find, to act as a windbreak. I also took him a slab of Christmas cake which we had left," Mr Ottewell said.

Back at the bothy Mr Ottewell made himself a meal. He was exhausted but in spite of his condition set out for help, sometimes unable to see because of the blizzards, walking about 20 miles in 10 hours.

Mr Ottewell arrived at a lodge but found the telephone was not working. He flagged down a passing motorist. "It was a great feeling when I heard Dave on the phone more than 24 hours after the avalanche, asking what had taken me so long," he said.

Rescue teams fought through blizzards and winds of up to 90mph to reach Mr Wharton, who had suffered serious leg and back injuries.

Rescuers, including four teams and two RAF helicopters, set out soon after dawn. The four-man team from Wales was first on the scene after a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth dropped them within a mile of where Mr Wharton lay.

Although Mr Wharton was conscious the team did not have a special stretcher with which to take him off the mountain, so another helicopter flew in more rescuers and equipment.

The climbers had been close to the summit of Braeriach when the avalanche happened. Last night the RAF rescue co-ordination centre said that the rescue had been complicated. "The casualty's companion did a really heroic job. He saved his life," a spokesman said.

Towyn lashed, page 1

World chess match saved for London

By Raymond Keene, chess correspondent

PROMPT action by supporters of chess in London has saved for the capital the all-British qualifying match for the next world championship after the collapse of arrangements for it to be held in Indonesia.

The eight-game match between Nigel Short and Jon Speelman will start in London on January 27, although the pitting together of the two British contenders so early in the championship remains controversial.

The rescue operation, arranged in the few days before Christmas, comes as the world championship final between Gary Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov nears its close in Lyons, and follows the Indonesians' withdrawal from the next cycle of qualification tournaments.

Seven matches between the world's top 14 grandmasters (apart from the two Lyons finalists) had been planned to start simultaneously at the end of January in Jakarta. Fide, the world chess federation, had announced firm dates, prize funds and pairings for the matches, which were to start the process for deciding the 1993 world title challenger.

A week ago this changed dramatically, when the prospective Jakarta organisers pulled the plug on the undertaking because of an unexpected evaporation of funds, and the seven matches of the qualifying cycle were abandoned.

The host for the match rearranged for London is Watson Farley and Williams, the City solicitors who for three years have supported a tournament to foster young British talent. The match will take place at the firm's premises.

Duncan Lawrie, the merchant bank that has sponsored the British Olympic team, has put up a £5,000 winner's purse, the amount stipulated by the world federation. All other costs will be borne by a consortium of Leigh Interests, the Chelsea arts club and the British Chess Federation.

The rescue illustrates the strength of British chess and the loyalty of its backers. In the chess Olympics of 1984 and 1986 the English team won silver medals, behind the Soviet Union. In 1988 and 1990, England shared second position behind the Soviet Union and the US.

In the coming contest, both Short and Speelman have diehard supporters. Short's tournament record is generally superior, and he has consistenty achieved a higher international ranking.

Short: achieved superior record in tournaments

Speelman: has excellent score in recent games

Speelman, though, has an excellent score in recent games against Short and is the only English player in organised British competitions to have reached the world semi-final.

The arrangements end frustration that the two were having to play so far from home, but not concern over the pitting against each other of the two leading British grandmasters. Apart from the Soviet Union, England is the only country with more than one player in the qualifying competition.

The speed with which the London leg has been arranged is emphasised by the fact that several other matches lack a venue. The qualifier between Korchnoi (Switzerland) and Sax (Hungary) has been secured in the Dutch town of Wijk aan Zee for the end of January, and those between Anand (India) and Ydasin (Soviet Union) and Gelfand (Soviet Union) and Nikolic (Yugoslavia) will be played in India and Yugoslavia, but there is no clue to venues for matches between Timman (Netherlands) and Hubner (Germany), Ivanchuk and Dreev, and Yusupov and Dolmatov, all of the Soviet Union.

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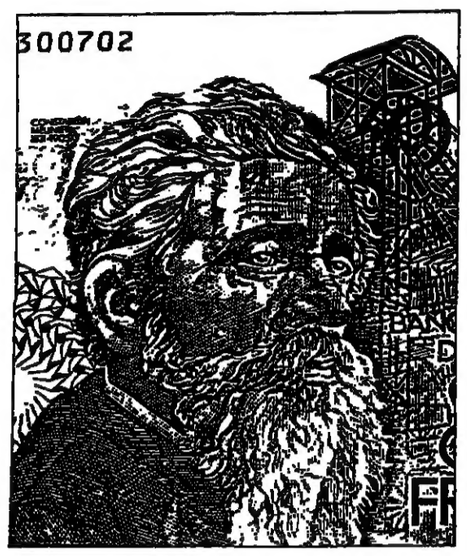

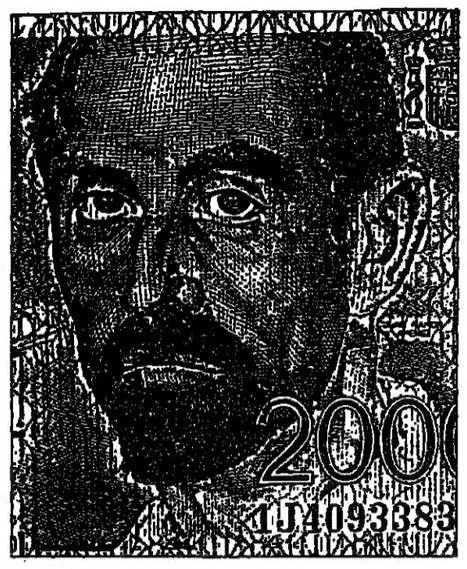

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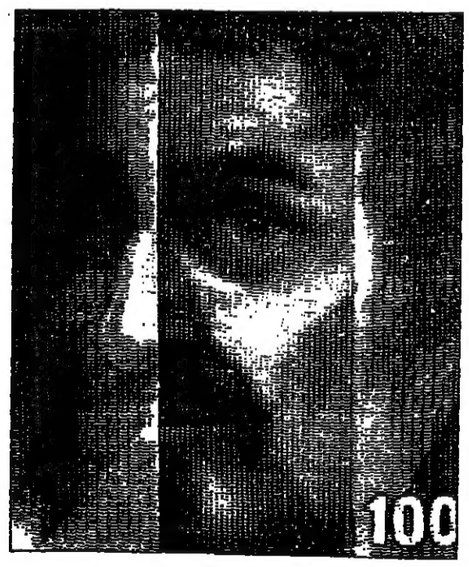

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Killings bring proposals to boost security in hospitals

By Thomson Prentice, Medical Correspondent

PLANS to protect hospital patients and health service staff from violent attacks are announced today by the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts.

The proposals were prompted by the murder of two consultant plastic surgeons in Pinderfields hospital, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, last month, and by evidence of increasing numbers of assaults within the health service.

Crime prevention experts will help to improve hospital security and electronic surveillance equipment is likely to be more widely introduced. Home Office advisers, police, security specialists and health service managers will attend a seminar arranged by the association and Crime Concern, a charity that receives government funding, in February.

Philip Hunt, director of the association, said yesterday: "The recent spate of attacks on hospital premises highlights the importance of greater vigilance within the health service. We want the NHS to have the most modern techniques and expertise to ensure the safety of patients and staff."

Sohail Husain, a senior executive of Crime Concern, said: "We believe it is possible to provide much better protection without turning hospitals into fortresses. Closed-circuit television cameras, locks and bolts are not enough in themselves.

"Physical violence towards health service workers and patients is at a disturbingly high level and there is also a huge amount of crime against NHS property.

"We want to involve hospital managers, staff, patients and health service unions in recognising and responding to the problems they may face."

A survey two years ago by the Health and Safety Executive showed that, in 12 months, almost 2,700 nurses, 650 ambulance staff and 200 doctors in five health authorities had been assaulted at work.

Violence is most common in psychiatric hospitals and in the accident and emergency departments of general hospitals, where many patients with alcohol-related injuries are admitted.

● Dentists will desert the health service for private practice if the government insists on retaining new contracts, the General Dental Practitioners' Association said yesterday. Low morale among members signalled a gloomy prospect for the new year.

Michael Watson, the association's secretary, said: "This is not just a matter of concern to dentists but to patients as well. The prospect is of higher NHS charges and fewer dentists able to accept NHS patients."

The dentists say that the new contracts mean the service will be underfunded and that patients could end up paying between 85 per cent and 90 per cent of the cost of treatment. They also say the deal will mean that little preventive work will be done and that there will be less treatment for children.

Meningitis vaccines to be tested

Sean Baker, aged two months, will today become the first baby to be tested with a new vaccine against meningitis. The baby, from Churchdown, Gloucestershire, is one of 320 infants taking part in the health district's trial of four vaccines.

The babies will be given injections every three months and their immunity against the potentially fatal disease will be tested in a year. The vaccines are already in use in Finland, Canada and the United States.

Hunt for teenager

Police are searching for Ahmed Shahpall, aged 16, who disappeared on Christmas day after saying he was going to clear leaves. They fear he may have drowned in the swollen river running through the garden in Balsall Heath, Birmingham.

Officer accused

A detective inspector faces a disciplinary enquiry after claims that he used abusive language at a Christmas party at Doncaster police station attended by many officers and their families.

Murder charge

Robert Warden, aged 47, of Woking, Surrey, was remanded in custody accused of murdering Kenneth MacLean, aged 26, after a brawl in a public house in the town on Christmas eve.

Portfolio winners

Two readers shared the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Douglas Littlewood, of Barnhurst, Kent, and John Mollett, of Ulceby, South Humberside, each receive £1,000.

House burglars home in on easy pickings

By William Cash

BEFORE going away over Christmas many home owners will have taken elaborate precautions to safeguard their treasured possessions. However, a new breed of burglar is abroad in search of bounty for which bank vaults and safes offer no protection.

Victims can return to find the very fabric of their houses missing after thieves have carried off period chimney pieces, mahogany banisters, cast-iron spiral staircases, hand-dyed wallpaper or Elizabethan oak panelling. Meanwhile, their Bang and Olufsen music system will be sitting unmolested in a corner.

Architectural theft is a multi-million pound business and highly organised gangs take advantage of public ignorance about the huge prices period features can fetch.

Phil Davies, of English Heritage's London division, says that a marble chimney piece can sell for up to £25,000 and a Georgian front door case £12,000. Victorian paving slabs are being dug up and sold at £50 a square yard.

Mr Davies says the problem is rampant and Scotland Yard has revamped the arts and antiques squad to tackle it: "It is much wider than London. Historic cities such as Manchester, Bristol and Liverpool, which have many Georgian buildings, are being plundered by both professional gangs and blatant opportunists."

The professionals subscribe to art and conservation magazines to locate easy targets and usually steal on commission. A favourite technique is to pose as an art restoration firm and confidently load up a lorry in broad daylight. Amateur thieves often damage or even destroy the objects they are trying to steal.

Theft from buildings is not new. Lead was popular with thieves in the 18th and 19th centuries but now that the price of lead has dropped only ill-informed crooks strip lead from roofs.

Mr Davies says that while marble chimney pieces are the most prized haul, many features are fair game. He wants to the public to be made more aware of what their fixtures are worth and cites the example of a carved Georgian doorcase, bought by a dealer in good faith for £300 and put on sale in his architectural salvage yard at £1,000. Its real worth, Mr Davies says, was £1,200.

Rosemary MacQueen, in charge of listed building protection for Westminster council, says that smart city offices are also favourite targets. "A fireplace in a swish West End office could fetch up to £100,000. People have no idea how ruthless and efficient these thieves are."

Philip Saunders, who runs *Trace* magazine, which circulates pictures of stolen art, says that such high prices are a new phenomenon. "When you look at a set of four 17th century lead urns, the sort you get in a country house garden, you'd be lucky to get £500 ten years ago — now they are worth £10,000."

However, it is not just listed buildings that are at risk. Public house furnishings, especially ornamental glass, and the decorative glass panels seen in many older suburban houses are popular with opportunist thieves. Many houses, in for example the London areas of Bloomsbury, Kensington, Marylebone and Islington may look quite plain from the outside but inside are splendid rooms that offer rich pickings.

Det Inspector Peter Craven, of the West Yorkshire arts and antiques squad, says that the nerve of the criminals is extraordinary. Thieves have used a hydraulic crane to uproot a set of wrought iron gates from a local country house.

Two weeks ago a gang stripped off the slate roof of the new visitor centre at Stump Cross Caverns, North Yorkshire. They were caught only when the lorry broke down three miles away because of the weight of the load.

"It is big business now that the value of architectural items has risen so dramatically. The criminals today are very discerning and like to offload their goods to America, via South Ireland, and Italy, where they are in great demand," he added.

Mr Saunders says that the owner of any period house is at risk, with items from the grounds as desirable as those inside. Thieves have walked into people's gardens and helping themselves to fountains, urns, bird baths or statues. "People are not taking care of their properties. They just don't think thieves will be interested in coming to steal their fireplaces or statues."

Sir Thomas Ingilby, owner of Ripley castle in North Yorkshire, is so concerned about the recent surge of thefts that he has set up a historic house hotline, that links more than 500 houses, to encourage joint surveillance. He is dismayed by the gullibility of so many people, citing the example of a statue of Mercury that vanished from outside a local council office. Its disappearance went unreported for four days as people assumed it had gone for cleaning.

Rich rewards: growing interest in architectural restoration has led to booming prices for stolen fixtures

Tiny chip could be the smart answer

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

ELECTRONICS engineers have designed a "neuron chip" the size of a garden beetle and with the processing power of three miniature computers.

The device, which in a few years is expected to cost less than £1, could be the key technology that architects and builders have been searching for to create truly "smart" homes and factories, according to independent experts.

The chip has been created by Echelon Corporation of Palo Alto, California, which was set up by Mike Markkula, a co-founder of Apple Computers who is regarded as something of a guru in the computing world. According to the company, light bulbs and switches that are individually controlled by a neuron chip may soon be for sale.

These will be capable of communicating with thousands of other neuron chips throughout a home, in appliances from air conditioning and heating systems to burglar and fire alarm units. In the event of a fire, sensors note an increase in light levels and turn the lighting down, at the same time the heating system's sensors detect an increase in temperatures and make adjustments.

Elsewhere fire alarm sensors switch on sprinklers and call the fire brigade while other neuron chips calculate the safest way out of the building and illuminate exit signs along this route.

The neuron chips, which are to be made by Toshiba and Motorola, two of world's biggest electronics companies, could be installed in headlights on cars and could spell the end of complicated and confusing wiring systems.

Applications are being studied by some of the world's biggest businesses concerned with home and industrial devices, including AT&T and the Sony Corporation, along with firms such as Leax Ltd of London, which specialises in lighting control.

Bill Gorski, senior hardware manager at Landis and Gyr in Buffalo, Illinois, and a subsidiary of the Swiss company that makes card phones in Britain, said the breakthrough achieved was the phenomenon known as "peer-to-peer" protocol, at an attractive price.

The peer-to-peer protocol embodied in the neuron chip allows devices made by different manufacturers to communicate with others as if they were made in the same factory, it is claimed.

"People have spent many dollars and much time in trying to develop the operating system and protocol that will allow little devices made by different companies to talk to each other," Mr Gorski said. "Up till now this has not been possible without a great deal of time, error and confusion. The peer-to-peer protocol allows these devices to talk to each other. It takes things beyond the master and slave," he said.

Harman sets target for 'classless' health care

HEALTH targets intended to close the gap between the rich and poor were set out yesterday by Harriet Harman, the shadow health minister.

"If Mr Major believes in a classless society, he should recognise that how long you live and how healthy you are depends on your class," she said. Her challenge was based on the General Household Survey published this month. The results showed that:

☐ unskilled men were more likely to suffer prolonged illness than professional people;

☐ 26 per cent of unskilled men and 32 per cent of unskilled women had illnesses that limited their lifestyle compared with 10 per cent of professional men and 15 per cent of professional women; and

☐ differences between the health of the classes were at record levels.

Ms Harman said: "The prime minister should set targets for a phased reduction in health inequalities."

British Jews prepare their defences against an attack by missionaries

The Decade of Evangelism about to begin has inspired the Christian community but is viewed with fear by non-Christians. Ruth Gledhill reports in the second of two articles

THE Decade of Evangelism has inspired Christians throughout Britain with renewed faith in the Gospel and the Word of Jesus Christ. With missionary zeal, evangelicals are working on plans to "mobilise the retired", and to attract the young on housing estates with Christian roadshows.

The decade, backed by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist and other leading churches, has, however, invoked fears among non-Christian communities and specifically among the Jews. Rabbi Shmuel Arkush, Midlands director of Lubavitch, a Jewish educational organisation, heads Operation Judaism, a project sponsored by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the office of the Chief Rabbi and the Lubavitch Foundation, to defend the Jewish community against "missionary attack".

Rabbi Arkush called on Christian evangelists to ease off in their attempts to convert Jews to Christianity. He said: "There are unfortunately a large number of missionary organisations targeting just Jewish people. The Jewish community is extremely fearful. It is causing a lot of hurt and upset and is ruining relationships which have been formed between the communities. The whole of the evangelical establishment is moving forward to gain more adherents to Christianity, which is fair enough. We do not object to that. What we do object to is that there are a number of mainstream evangelical groups specifically targeting Jews."

He said that as a result some Jews were receiving psychiatric help. Some evangelists were over-zealous in convincing Jews that they would be sentencing themselves to eternal damnation if they refuse to accept the Christian creed. "I consider it to be totally out of place that anyone should be telling the Jews about religion. The job of the Jews should be telling everyone else." Quoting from Isaiah, he said: "It is the Jews that are the light to the nations."

Rabbi Arkush said Christians should seek out lapsed Christians. "There are millions, as I understand. Or they should go to people with no faith whatsoever, of which I understand there are hundreds of millions."

He singled out the Church's Ministry among the Jews, whose patron is the Archbishop of Canterbury, for criticism. "It is a very active mission specifically to the Jews." John Fieldsend, who works for the ministry and describes himself as a Messianic Jew, lost most of his family in the Holocaust. He said: "We have been going for 200 years. It is part of our ministry to witness to the Lordship of Jesus to all people. We have a special concern for Jewish people, in combating anti-semitism and in proclaiming the truth of the Gospel as we see it.

Coates: most churches are losing members

"As far as the Decade of Evangelism goes, we are not planning anything in particular because we are working at this constantly. We try not to use the word conversion. We believe a Jewish person who comes to faith through Jesus remains a Jew."

The words evangelical, evangelist and evangelism and evangelisation are frequently confused. According to *The Oxford English Dictionary*, evangelical means of or pertaining to the Gospel; evangelist means one of the writers of the four Gospels; evangelism is preaching or promulgation of the Gospel and evangelisation is the action or work of preaching the Gospel. An evangelist can also be one who preaches the Gospel.

Many traditional Anglicans and Roman Catholics perceive evangelicals as people in the house or new churches, the pentecostal and the black-led churches. Some of these churches, while co-operating with the Decade, argue that evangelism is what they have been doing for decades already.

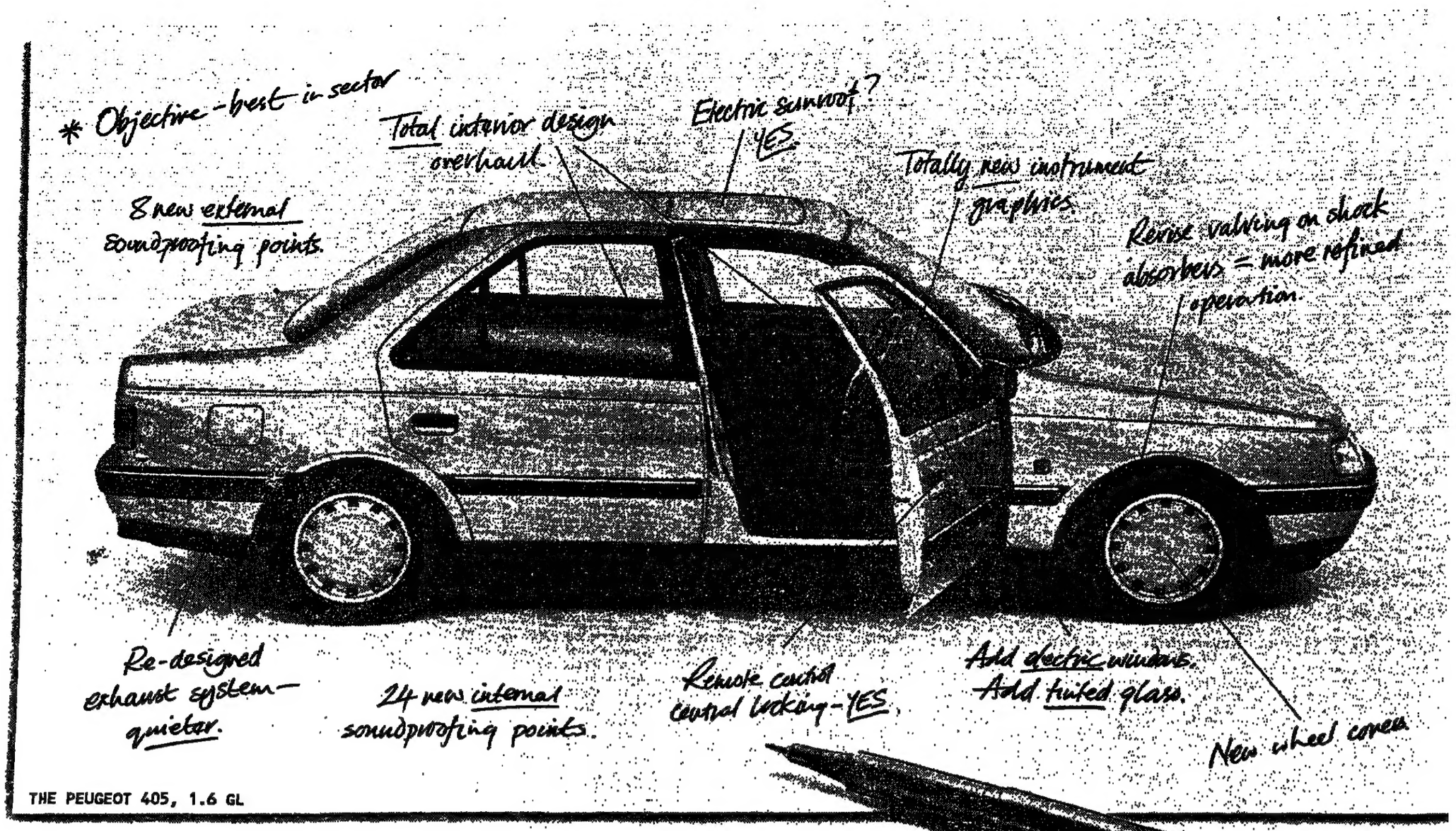
Gerald Coates, director of the Pioneer Trust, which cares for a network of house or new churches, said: "The evangelical wing is the only wing of the church that is growing. There has been a massive haemorrhaging of membership in most churches. Only the Baptists have come out better. That is due to the loss of the Gospel and loss of respect for the teaching of scripture."

He said the new churches, pentecostal and black-led churches were the fastest growing. Mr Coates said that the growth represented a rejection of the morality of the Sixties and a return to orthodox faith and behaviour. "The decade of evangelism was of great interest to us because it means a recovery of the Gospel and of social action done in the name of Christ rather than just the name of religion. But it is not of as great interest to the new, black-led and pentecostal churches as others because these are wholly evangelistic anyway. That is what has got us where we are."

The Rev Ian Coffey, a Baptist minister seconded to the Evangelical Alliance as field director, said the alliance aimed to co-ordinate activities. It is looking at ways of "mobilising the retired" and is considering setting up mobile units, along the lines of the BBC *Radio One Roadshow*. Young people on housing estates, who would not normally want to go near a church, would be the target.

Michael Green, author of the recently published *Evangelism through the local Church*, said the decade was prompted by the "spirit of God" because the idea hit churches worldwide simultaneously.

He said: "Let us spread the Gospel with the boldness and freshness of the early Christians, and not stay cool and detached and dead as so much Western Christianity is." He said that the house churches were most capable of handling a vast incursion.



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This commitment has resulted in a 1991 405 GL 1.6 with not only electric front windows, electric sunroof and remote control central locking, but also a driver's seat lumbar support adjustment, tinted glass and new wheel covers.

The car's interior design has been totally overhauled, with new colour schemes, a new steering wheel and instrument graphics, as well as a modified fascia.

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But in all this praise for our designers, let's not forget the unsung heroes in the After Sales Division, whose own tinkering has produced 'Lioncare' AA protection for every new Peugeot owner.

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Gorbachev picks loyal bureaucrat as deputy

From Mary Dejevsky in Moscow

NIKOLAI Ryzhkov's heart attack and the unexpected nomination of a traditional communist bureaucrat for the new post of vice-president leave President Gorbachev's leadership sadly diminished.

"Look at those we have lost — Shevardnadze and Ryzhkov", said a reformist deputy yesterday. "And look at Gennadi Yanayev."

His inference was not only that Mr Gorbachev had chosen a Russian and a traditionalist rather than a non-Russian or a known reformer as his deputy. He also had in mind the discrepancy in stature. Mr Yanayev spent three years in charge of the official trade union movement before joining the party secretariat in July. Before that, he worked in the party apparatus and before that in the youth organisation.

He is regarded as completely loyal to Mr Gorbachev to the point of being regarded as a "yes man". His manner — assured, open and quick — belongs to the era of glasnost, but his language does not. Accepting the nomination, he referred to "democratic and patriotic forces" (as though the two were different, as they are to Russian conservatives). He emphasised his allegiance to the party — "I am a communist to the depths of my soul" — and paid tribute to the army.

His enthusiasm for the market economy was muted and supplemented with assurances that he would defend people's right to "social protection", the code for maintaining state subsidies and ensuring that no one suffers in the transition.

Yegor Ligachev, the now-retired doyen of the party traditionalists, said he thoroughly approved of Mr Yanayev, "a good communist and intelligent."

Mr Gorbachev may have chosen Mr Yanayev, who is certain to gain the necessary majority of congress votes in the overnight election, for precisely the qualities cited by Mr Ligachev. At a time when the Soviet leader is being criticised for ruining the country and selling out to the West, the choice of a presentable traditionalist makes sense.

It could relieve the pressure from conservatives, who are well represented at the congress, and from those craving order at almost any cost. At the same time, it could give Mr Gorbachev a degree of freedom on economic reform.

A less complimentary judgement would be that Mr Gorbachev has again shown his preference for compromise at almost any cost and his reluctance to appoint anyone of the calibre to become a rival.

Some in yesterday's audience compared Mr Yanayev's manner and policies with those of Mr Ryzhkov — described at the end of yesterday as being "in a stable condition" in a Moscow hospital. The crucial difference, however, is that Mr Ryzhkov had a mind of his own and the ability to make life uncomfortable for Mr Gorbachev.

Among his victories were Mr Gorbachev's agreement to drop his preference for the more radical Shatalin economic programme; and the pledge contained in the compromise programme that government and state agencies would not be abolished until new organs could take over.

Gorbachev's powers, page 1
Leading article, page 11

Concern as more flee Albania

From Reuter in Athens

GREECE expressed concern over reports of murder and stiff jail terms in neighbouring Albania as more refugees fled across the border yesterday.

More than 100 Albanians, mostly ethnic Greeks, have crossed into Greece in the past week, fleeing from political turmoil in the communist country, the state-run Athens news agency ANA said.

The agency also cited unconfirmed reports that three ethnic Greeks and an Albanian soldier were shot dead by guards while trying to flee into Greece early this month.

A Greek government spokesman appeared to be referring to these reports when he said the "multiplying number of murders of members of the Greek minority in Albania" was causing concern. Athens says about 350,000 ethnic Greeks live in Albania.

Greece was also worried by the fact that, despite pledges of liberalisation by Tirana, demonstrators were sentenced to stiff prison terms.

Exiles still: the former King Michael of Romania looking on as his daughter, Princess Sophie, inspects a passport in Bucharest yesterday before they were deported, less than 12 hours after returning to the country

Man in the news

Absent king with longing to serve

By Tim Judah

OF ALL eastern Europe's monarchs in waiting only King Michael has actually ruled in his own country. King Michael, aged 69, a Hohenzollern, is the son of King Carol II who did much to bring the reputation of the German-defended monarchy in Rom[illegible] to disrepute.

King [illegible] who abdicated twice [illegible] a notorious woman[illegible] and admirer of Mussolini King Michael could not be more different from his father. In 1944, at the age of 22, he staged a coup against Romania's fascist dictator, Ion Antonescu, and in exile he has built up a reputation for honesty, hardwork and modesty.

He abdicated on December 30, 1947, after Romania's Soviet-backed communists threatened him and surrounded Bucharest's royal palace with troops. He and his mother were allowed to leave Romania with little but their clothes and four cars. Since then King Michael has had a passion for wartime Jeeps.

In exile, he has run a chicken farm in Hertfordshire, been a test pilot in the United States, worked for Learjet, started an electronics company and also been a stockbroker. For most of his life in exile he has lived in Switzerland. In 1948 he married a French princess, Anne of Bourbon-Parma. They have five daughters.

King Michael has always maintained that, because of the way he was forced to abdicate, he is the legal sovereign of Romania. He still holds his old Romanian passport. He is named as King Michael of Romania in the Danish diplomatic passport with which he tried to enter Romania on Christmas Day.

Since last December's revolution, in which the Ceausescu regime was overthrown, King Michael has let it be known that his dearest wish is to visit his country, then to visit the tombs of his ancestors, and, lastly, to serve if called upon. Indeed, there is growing interest in Romania in the man who has already played an important part in his country's history and may yet have a role.

King criticized, page 18

Observers allege Serbia poll fraud

From Associated Press in Belgrade

OPPOSITION parties and Serbian expatriates acting as election observers yesterday accused Serbia's ruling communists of widespread vote-tampering in the republic's first free elections in 50 years.

The communists, recently renamed Socialists and led by Slobodan Milosevic, crushed opposition parties in the first-round ballot on December 9 and in run-offs on Sunday, winning a total of 194 seats in the republic's 250-seat parliament.

Milosevic: refused to let expatriate Serbs vote

"Because of all the irregularities that accompanied them, the Serbian elections would not be considered legal in the West," said Zoran Hodzera, a political consultant from Washington and a member of a delegation of Americans and Canadians of Serbian origin monitoring the vote.

The Socialists refused to bow to opposition pressure to allow expatriate Serbs to vote in the elections. Serbs living outside Yugoslavia are generally considered opponents of communist rule.

The delegation was headed by United States Congresswoman Helen Bentley, who would submit a report on the polls to the House of Representatives, Mr Hodzera said.

He cited a sudden 10 per cent increase in the number of registered voters on December 9 and evidence of voting without identification documents as being "particularly serious", given that 57 Socialist candidates won by margins of less than 10 per cent in the first round.

He also criticised what he said were attempts by officials to intimidate voters and bias against opposition parties in state-run media during the election campaign. That proved the elections "were not really democratic", he said.

A separate team of electoral observers from the National Republican Institute left Belgrade on Christmas day saying they would publish their findings on the elections in Washington next month.

Miodrag Skulic, a spokesman for the Serbian Renewal Movement, the largest opposition party that won 19 seats, said specific complaints of irregularities had been lodged with the state electoral commission.

Serbian authorities have said that some voters were allowed to register at their polling places on election day due to incomplete electoral rolls and have denied any electoral wrongdoing.

Moscow's troops add to crime in Germany

From Reuter in Bonn

SOVIET troops in what was East Germany commit up to 30 crimes daily and 15 to 30 soldiers desert every week, the Federal Crime Office said yesterday.

"There is a striking emergence of criminality involving Soviet units as well as growing number of deserters." Hans-Ludwig Zachert, the organisation's chief,said in an interview with the Bonn daily *Die Welt*. Transformed by German unification from an untouchable occupation force to a demoralised anachronism, 380,000 Soviet troops are due to be withdrawn from east Germany by 1994. Indiscipline in the ranks is reported to be rife.

Herr Zachert said east German police registered between 20 and 30 crimes involving Soviet soldiers every day, often robberies of shops and homes stocked with modern consumer goods bought since unification in October.

Fifteen to 30 Soviet soldiers deserted each week, he added, without saying how many had been caught and turned over to military authorities. Soviet officials have acknowledged desertions but deny they are a serious problem.

Soviet troops also caused numerous traffic accidents by reckless driving of army vehicles, Herr Zachert said. "All this colours the people's sense of security . . . and has led to a lot of anxiety and also great antipathy toward the (Soviet) army," he said.

Many Germans grateful for the reformist Kremlin's acceptance of unity have donated millions of pounds in aid for the shortage-stricken Soviet Union or responded to charity appeals to take in young soldiers at Christmas. But some east Germans now vent on Moscow's troops an antagonism pent up during 40 years of communist rule. Soldiers are often ignored, dressed down or even assaulted in public.

Herr Zachert said civilian crime in east Germany also was soaring.

Socialist 'plot' is exposed in Seoul

Seoul — South Korea's main internal security agency claimed yesterday that it had thwarted a socialist conspiracy to overthrow the government. It alleged that the plot had direct links to North Korea.

The Agency for National Security Planning said it had charged 31 people, including university students and a primary school teacher, and had issued warrants for the arrest of 70 others for violating harsh anti-communist laws.

The security agency said that those arrested were members of an underground body set up in 1988 to support North Korea's proposals to reunify the two Koreas, divided in the 1950s.

The agency said that the underground organisation used a nationwide radical student alliance as "a front for revolutionary movement".

Surinam 'calm'

Cayenne, French Guiana — The former Dutch colony of Surinam in South America remained calm after a military coup, a Dutch diplomat said. "Essential services continue to function and there has been no announcement of a curfew," the diplomat said by telephone from Paramaribo, the capital. *(Reuter)*

Explosion claim

Rome — A Christmas morning explosion in Rome was aimed at Vatican Radio and not an American servicemen's club, according to a caller who claimed responsibility for an anarchist group. The blast caused slight damage to the club and the Vatican Radio building. There were no injuries. *(Reuter)*

Cost of pleasure

Tokyo — Japanese companies spent an estimated record 4,980 billion yen (£19.2 billion) on corporate entertainment in the year ending January 1990, the tax agency reported. In recent years, the corporate entertainment bill has been larger than the nation's total defence spending. *(Reuter)*

OSLO NOTEBOOK by Tony Samstag

Norwegians' charity to foreigners ends at home

Aslam Ashan, aged 48, is a graphic artist who came to Norway 20 years ago from his native Pakistan, settling in a suburb of the capital. Recently he had what must have seemed a good idea: a Christmas party for those residents of Oslo, particularly the elderly, who would otherwise be alone. Mr Ashan and his friends, mainly Muslims, reasoned that their willingness to work during the Christian holiday was, as he put it, "an exploitable resource".

According to what statistics you read, up to half the population of Oslo may be living alone, ironic in a society crippled by religious fundamentalism where the sanctity of family life is cited as justification for a depressing shortage of social amenities.

The local council was happy to put up about £3,000 for the party. But weeks passed and not one Norwegian had accepted the invitation. So Mr Ashan went on a national religious radio programme to repeat his offer. This time the lonely responded in force, from all over the country: not, however, with even one grateful acceptance, but with scores of abusive telephone calls. A consensus emerged that the bloody foreigners, not content with taking their jobs, social benefits, women and so on, were now trying to steal Christmas from the Norwegians as well. This seasonal tale from the folk who claim to have invented Father Christmas illustrates the Dag Hammarskjöld Syndrome: the tendency of small, provincial countries to wax idealistic over exotic, impoverished peoples, while abhorring the stranger in their midst.

Norway is justly proud that it gives 1.11 per cent of its gross national product to development aid, one of the highest percentages in the world. At the same time, few foreigners actually living in Norway, perhaps 4 per cent of the population, will be surprised by the natives' response to Mr Ashan's generous impulse.

An elegant variation on the Hammarskjöld Syndrome is the Brundtland Effect: a preoccupation with wide-ranging threats to the environment while allowing one's own immediate habitat to be plundered and despoiled. This phenomenon is named after Gro Harlem Brundtland, the prime minister. She is well known as chairman of the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development. Her exhortations about sustainable development and the like have earned her many international awards. At home, however, she and her ministers have consistently demonstrated a talent for evading sensitive conservation issues.

This year's crop of scandals includes the continuing illegal slaughter of Scandinavia's last wolves by Norwegian farmers and the proposed siting of an Olympic skating hall at a protected wetland.

Tide of Soviet migrants overwhelms Israeli jobs and housing

Promised land: Russian arrivals wheel in their possessions

So many Russian Jews are fleeing to Israel that the country's resources are stretched to the limit. Richard Owen finds Moscow-trained doctors sweeping the streets

AS 1990 draws to a close, Israel is being overwhelmed by a wave of panic-stricken Soviet Jews for whom even an imminent Middle East war is preferable to the chaos of a disintegrating Soviet Union faced with repression instead of reform.

As immigrants continued to pour in yesterday after the surge of thousands of new arrivals last weekend, the government launched an emergency housing programme to accommodate the new arrivals in tents and caravans. The Knesset approved a $3 billion (£1.6 billion) budget for absorbing immigrants in 1991, with the money coming from borrowing abroad and cuts in public spending.

But critics said the budget was based on outdated predictions, and that Israel faced a critical shortage of both housing and jobs as it struggled to cope with the influx. Nearly 250,000 Soviet immigrants will have arrived at Tel Aviv airport from Moscow by New Year's eve, far more than the earlier official estimate for 1990 of 40,000 arrivals.

The 1991 budget assumes 300,000 immigrants will arrive next year. But with Soviet Jews still arriving at a rate of more than 1,000 a day, some officials believe 600,000 will arrive in the new year, with more than a million settling in Israel by 1992, swelling the Jewish population of Israel to nearly six million.

Israel's social and demographic structure already shows signs of change: the newly launched television news broadcasts in English are being cut back to make way for Russian-language transmissions.

Tel Aviv airport has come to resemble a transit camp, with exhausted and bewildered Russians, many poorly dressed, sitting on piles of shabby belongings. For many of the new arrivals, the dominant feeling was relief at having escaped a Soviet Union marked by rising anti-semitism, bitter ethnic rivalries and mounting hardship. "We had to get out in case the gates clanged shut," one immigrant said. Natan Sharansky, *the former dissident, said:* "Nobody knows how much time is left."

Half of the *olim* (immigrants) have higher education. Yet many of the doctors, scientists and engineers among them are having to do menial work to survive, because of the lack of jobs in a country which boasts a high proportion of qualified people.

"Working with your hands is nothing to be ashamed of," said Natan Michnik, a doctor aged 33, who had just arrived from Zhitomir in the Ukraine and had found work in a bakery at Beersheva, the "development town" in the Negev desert.

His neighbour, another Soviet doctor, was sweeping the streets to support his family — not, he admitted, what he had envisaged when queueing for weeks in Moscow to obtain exit papers. Those Soviet doctors who do find temporary employment in hospitals *often receive no payment* apart from canteen meals. Younger Russian women have reportedly swelled the ranks of "escorts" working in Israeli resorts.

Some immigrants, used to a system which provides security from the cradle to the grave, have fallen into apathy in the hope that somebody will "do something". Israeli television shows hundreds of imported caravans being unloaded at Israeli ports for emergency accommodation. In the meantime, new arrivals are sent to hotels, where the limited funds they are given by the state on arrival soon dwindle.

At one Jerusalem hotel, Vladimir Gurfinkel, a Moscow-trained building engineer, lived with his wife, a music teacher, and his parents. After barely 48 hours in Israel, Mr Gurfinkel was optimistic he could find some kind of work. "Anything is better than Moscow," he said. "You see the fear and hostility in the Russians' eyes. People are behaving like animals and we Jews are the scapegoats, as usual."

But his mother, who had already been in Israel for a month, wondered how she and her chronically ill husband were to live on a combined Israeli pension of £200 a month when their hotel bills, without food, were running at £300 a month.

Yesterday Ariel Sharon, the housing minister, announced that of the 45,000 flats to be built for immigrants in the coming year, 1,200 would go up in the occupied West Bank. But few Russian Jews seem attracted by the prospect of living in a settlement surrounded by hostile, stone-throwing Palestinians.

The government is acutely aware that a long-promised $400 million housing loan from the United States is being held up by the Bush administration in case the money is used "beyond the green line". The result is a build-up of tension over the housing shortage as tent cities spring up.

Arabs bitter at release of three Jewish extremists

From RICHARD OWEN, IN HEBRON, OCCUPIED WEST BANK

MILITANT Jewish settlers of Hebron were delighted yesterday by the early release from prison of three leading members of the Jewish Underground, the extremist group which waged a five-year campaign of terror against West Bank Arabs in the 1980s.

But the town's Arabs were bitter and angry, as were Israeli left-wingers, who deplored Israeli leniency towards Jewish perpetrators of violence but not Arabs.

The three Jewish militants — Menachem Livni, Shaul Nir and Uzi Sharbaf — had been sentenced to life for acts of terrorism but served less than seven years each. They were convicted of killing three Arabs and wounding more than thirty others during a machinegun attack on Hebron's Islamic College in 1983, which was part of a campaign by the secret 25-member Jewish Underground.

Civil rights activists demonstrating outside the prison near Tel Aviv complained that the three released men had had their sentences cut three times, with further reductions for good behaviour. This contrasts with the tough sentences routinely given to Arabs for relatively minor offences such as stone-throwing. This week Israel defied the United Nations by maintaining an order expelling four Gaza Strip Arabs for allegedly inciting violence against Jews.

Hebron, with its mixed population, was a flashpoint even before the *intifada*. Jewish settlers have established heavily guarded enclaves in the town centre and at Kiryat Arba, a fortress-like settlement on the hill above. The Jewish Underground was formed in Hebron following the murder of six Israelis by Arabs in 1980 near the town's *souk*, or market place.

Yesterday Mr Livni said he no longer believed Jews should resort to violence. But he warned the government of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, that unless the authorities took firmer measures to crush the Arab revolt, Israeli civilians were bound to "take the law into their own hands". He said the problem was political and moral rather than military. He added: "The government must take some sort of decision which shows political courage and moral firmness against an enemy which seeks to destroy us."

President Herzog defended his decision as head of state to reduce the life sentences to 10 years and then to seven, saying the three released Jews had "shown unequivocal regret and renounced the path they took". But Mr Shamir, a former attorney general, said he could recall no precedent in which a life sentence for murder had become a seven-year sentence. "Israel is presenting Arab terror as terrible and Jewish terror as not so terrible," he said.

In Gaza, Israeli troops yesterday shot dead a Palestinian, aged 25, who had tried to stab Israeli soldiers in Shati refugee camp. Arab doctors said the dead man had more than twenty bullets in his body. The shooting sparked off riots in the Gaza Strip. In Rafah refugee camp, troops seriously wounded a masked Arab youth who was writing grafitti on the camp walls to mark the 26th anniversary of Fatah, the mainstream group within the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Back on the street: Uzi Sharbaf, left, and Shaul Nir, second from right, leaders of the Jewish Underground, celebrating their freedom with right-wing activists yesterday, after serving less than seven years of their life sentences for killing three Arabs in Hebron

Tel Aviv tries to dispel war fears

By RICHARD OWEN

ISRAELI leaders moved yesterday to calm the public after the alarm caused by the remark of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, on Christmas day that a Middle East war was "very close". Moshe Arens, the defence minister, said there was "no prospect of a rain of Iraqi missiles falling on Israel", and General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, said January 15 should not be regarded "as the date on which the war will erupt".

Mr Arens told the Knesset Iraq's missiles were "clumsy weapons which are cumbersome to operate". He added: "Only a few, if any, would reach Israel. Their ability to cause physical damage is limited — even very limited." He said Israel had given much thought to neutralising the Iraqi threat but Israel needed steady nerves and was looking at the conflict "in its true proportions, because it could drag on for a long time".

General Shomron said both sides in the Gulf confrontation were in a period of psychological warfare. President Saddam Hussein still had room for manoeuvre and could "pull rabbits out of a hat" by making various concessions while still remaining a dominant element in the Middle East.

Asked on Israel radio if the Israeli army was bound to become involved in any conflict, General Shomron replied: "I certainly would not say that that is certain. Saddam Hussein knows the damage that he can cause us is limited, while our response would be very harsh and harmful. I imagine he takes that into consideration."

Professor Amatzia Baram, an expert on the Gulf at Haifa University, said Iraq's missiles were capable of hitting Israeli cities. But the Iraqi rockets had primitive guidance systems, he said, and even if a few missiles did get through Israeli air defences, not all of them would reach their targets. He said that as far as Israel knew, President Saddam did not have the capability to arm his missiles with binary chemical weapons such as nerve gas.

An assessment published in the newspaper *Hadashot*, based on intelligence sources, said the accuracy of Iraqi missiles was "very low". The report also played down the threat of chemical warfare, saying that to affect half the population in one square kilometre, Iraq would need four *tonnes of mustard gas or two* tonnes of nerve gas. Nearly all Israeli citizens have in any case been given gas masks.

Saddam ready for diplomatic drive

From JOHN HOLLAND IN BAGHDAD

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq is meeting his key ambassadors *this week to prepare a new* diplomatic offensive in the new year, according to diplomatic sources.

In the past few days, a steady stream of Iraqi-owned Lear jets have landed at Saddam Hussein international airport bringing back for consultations the 25 or so *Iraqi envoys posted to the primary* countries allied against Baghdad in the Arabian peninsula.

They include the envoys to Washington, Moscow, London and the United Nations.

Some diplomats said President Saddam plans to instruct his envoys to sound out a new foreign *government in the coming weeks* over the "nightmare scenario" for the allies — a withdrawal from most of Kuwait by Iraqi forces before the UN January 15 deadline, but continued occupation with intent to annex or lease the strategic important islands of Bubiyan and Warbah as well as the disputed south Rumaila oilfields in southern Kuwait. Until now, the anti-Iraq alliance has insisted on unconditional withdrawal from Kuwaiti soil of Iraq's estimated 450,000-strong force.

But the timing for international acceptance, if not condoning, of such an offer is better now. Western diplomatic sources here admit. International public support for a bloody, all-out attack on Iraq to liberate Kuwait has greatly diminished, and President Saddam Hussein may be preparing to take such a step, which would make him appear reasonable abroad and a hero in the Arab world as the leader who stared down Western military might and won property and influence into the bargain.

"It wouldn't be liberating Kuwait any more," said one coalition diplomat of a military response to *the nightmare scenario.* "It would be liberating a couple of hundred square miles of oilfields and several islands with marginal strategic value outside Iraq." He added that Western public opinion favouring an attack "would absolutely plummet".

Meanwhile, Western and Asian embassies are making final contingency plans to evacuate and shut their missions here in the event that hostilities break out on or around the January 15 deadline.

Western diplomatic missions are already operating on skeleton staffs. Most Western ambassadors have been called home for extensive consultations long since — or, in the case of the Australian ambassador, an extended holiday — and support staff are also being given leave which could be extended indefinitely.

One British embassy source said that remaining staff are in "limbo" about the date of a possible evacuation.

One high-ranking Western diplomat said he would not leave until all his remaining staff, which is down to five, were evacuated.

Other heads of mission, having long since burnt the last classified and consular documents, are talking of merely turning the lights off and bolting the doors when the call comes from the Foreign Office.

In addition, Iraqi Airlines, which is the sole remaining carrier for flights to and from Baghdad, is being besieged with embassy inquiries about whether it plans to fly on or after January 15.

Baghdad deal near on Soviet evacuation

Moscow — The Soviet foreign *ministry* said yesterday that the evacuation of Soviet citizens from Iraq should be completed in two weeks' time, but the continuing delicacy of this task was underlined by the sending of a more senior team to negotiate with Baghdad (Bruce Clark writes).

The departure for Baghdad of Igor Belousev, a deputy prime minister and head of President Gorbachev's inter-ministerial task force on the Gulf, will inevitably prompt speculation that broader aspects of the conflict are on his agenda. Mr Belousev was expected to meet Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, and Taha Yassin Ramadan, the first deputy prime minister, Tass reported.

The arrival in Moscow early yesterday of a special flight carrying 400 expatriates left about 1,700 Soviet citizens, or roughly half the original number, still in Iraq, according to ministry spokesman Vitali Churkin.

The spokesman, an aide to the outgoing foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, said evacuation of remaining Soviet residents should be over by January 10.

Mr Churkin, who insisted last week that all Soviet experts ought to leave Iraq in their country's interests, made no mention of the *subsequent assertion by Yevgeni* Primakov, Moscow's special envoy to the Gulf, that 1,000 expatriates had chosen to remain in Iraq to complete their contracts.

Fez rioters jailed

Fez — A Moroccan court sen*tenced 40 people to prison terms* from one to seven years after a strike which turned to rioting nearly two weeks ago in which property was extensively damaged and at least five people killed. The sentences were the most severe handed down so far in dozens of trials after the disorder in several *Moroccan cities.(AP)*

Troop ship delay

Madrid — The departure of a Spanish passenger ship which was chartered to transport French troops to the Gulf was delayed in Cádiz because its crew refused to make the trip. The ship, the J. J. Sister, had been scheduled to sail with a volunteer crew to Toulon to pick up the soldiers after the regular crew went on strike rather than sail to the Gulf.

Death for spying

Tunis — A Tunisian diplomat was sentenced to death for spying, official sources said. A relative said that Lamiri Dali, aged 58, was found guilty of espionage for the United States. Dali, deputy director for African affairs in the foreign ministry, was arrested on October 16, allegedly while about to hand secret documents to agents of a foreign power. *(Reuter)*

Renewal of Saudi ties with Iran foreseen

By MICHAEL KNIPE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A RESUMPTION of diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia was being predicted yesterday after the leaders of six Gulf states welcomed what they said was Tehran's wish to improve ties with its Arab neighbours.

In their first summit since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August, the six allies in the Gulf Co-operation Council demanded Iraq's unconditional withdrawal and said they *would hold their next annual* summit in Kuwait.

The friendly message to Iran marked a new stage in the realignment of loyalties in the Middle East. During the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, the Gulf states backed Iraq. The Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti governments spent more than $30 billion financing the Iraqi military.

In 1988 the tension between the Saudi and Iranian governments was intensified by trouble during the Mecca pilgrimage and the two broke off relations.

The Gulf Co-operation Council consists of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait.

The uncompromising call for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait indicated that member states, such as Oman, which had argued *for international sanctions to be* given more time to work, were overruled by the militant states.

The finance ministers of the council are to meet in the next few days to discuss establishing a fund to support countries which have rallied to Kuwait's aid. The rulers were angered that Jordan, Yemen, Sudan and the PLO, which have received billions of dollars in aid, have shown sympathy for Iraq.

Feeble Deng goes through motions of people's democracy

From Catherine Sampson in Peking

DENG XIAOPING, China's senior leader, looked feeble when he appeared in public for the first time in more than five months yesterday to cast his vote in local elections.

His appearance served the dual purpose of quashing rumours that he was in hospital and of emphasising the importance of the elections. China's leaders insist that the elections are what put the democracy into the people's democratic dictatorship.

Li Peng, the prime minister, was also shown casting his vote, smiling broadly as though he knew that the so-called democratic process was a joke. Mr Li was widely expected to fall from power after he became known as the man with blood on his hands from last year's mass killings. Eighteen months later, he looks confident and secure.

Throughout the city voters streamed, rather unwillingly, to cast their ballots. In the meeting hall in Xinghuaxili neighbourhood, people gathered to do their socialist duty. Despite official claims that local deputies are elected by secret ballot, there were no booths here, just a desk around which everyone huddled, read over each other's shoulder and discussed loudly which names to tick. It was not a difficult task. There were four candidates for three seats, a typical ratio.

In theory, there is nearly a 100 per cent turnout for these elections. In practice, many people send their friends to vote for them. "There is no point whatsoever in this", said one man in private, "hardly anyone knows who the candidates are, and whoever you vote for it makes no difference anyway, they're all the same."

Local elections, held every three years in every suburb and workplace, are the country's only direct elections. Any person proposed by 10 people can supposedly stand, but such candidates are assessed on the basis of political reliability by an election committee. One of the most important criteria is a candidate's attitude during the unrest last year. Such information can easily be gained.

There are also quotas to be fulfilled by women, Communist Party members, and the so-called democratic parties. Only a tiny fraction of the 3,300 voters in Xinghuaxili had met the candidates.

Having more candidates than seats is a relatively new concept, and the voters cannot get used to it. One old woman said: "I would like to elect all the candidates; it is a pity we can only elect three".

Even the candidates had not really caught on. "When I listen to the other three speaking I think they are all so much better than me, so I think it is right for them to be elected, not me," said Song Li, a school deputy head, aged 48, after the meeting.

Yao Chunlan, aged 60 and illiterate, has served for years on the busybody street committee, bossing women about contraception and keeping a close watch on potential trouble-makers. She has stood three times before and failed to be elected each time. Liu Anshan, production manager in a collective factory, is a shy 38-year old.

The fourth candidate, Zhang Zhu, aged 57, seems to be a certainty. A local official who has served before as a people's deputy, he wears a Mao suit and speaks with the voice of authority.

Had they knocked on people's doors, to canvass for votes? Mrs Yao all but holds up her hands in horror. "We avoid the voters during election time; it is embarrassing for voters to talk about the elections in our presence". Mrs Song cuts in: "These things are unnecessary. Here the most important thing is to support democracy, elections in China are democratic, completely different from those in the West".

Both Mr Zhang and Mrs Yao are Communist Party members, Mr Liu is not a member of any party, more from apathy than from principle. Mrs Song is the member of one of China's so-called democratic parties. Not that you would know it. "It is very free in China politically," she says, "people can join whichever party they like. That is why I joined a democratic party. The Communist Party is our ruling party, and we co-operate under the leadership of the Communist Party. This is what is meant by a proletarian dictatorship."

Democratic exercise: an infirm Deng Xiaoping making his way to the ballot box to cast his vote in yesterday's local elections. Television showed Mr Deng, aged 86, walked shakily towards the ballot box in Zhongnanhai, the section of the Forbidden City used by the Chinese leadership for their homes and offices, but the official news agency described him as striding vigorously to cast his vote. Mr Deng had not been seen in public since July and his health had been the subject of widespread speculation, with the suggestion being made in some circles that he was ailing in hospital. Chinese and diplomatic analysts believe that Mr Deng is still the most powerful force in politics and that his death may herald a period of disorder. During his appearance yesterday he smiled fixedly and his daughter gently guided him forward with a hand on his elbow. The television coverage skimmed over the obvious effort which he was required to make to fill in his voting slip and shuffle to the ballot box. He then turned, still beaming, and muttered: "That is that".

America looks back on year of record violence

From Martin Fletcher in Washington

THIS year could go down as the most violent in the United States, exceeding even 1980 when 23,040 people were killed, one every 23 minutes. In the first six months of 1990, FBI figures showed killings in cities of more than 100,000 people as 8 per cent up on 1989. By the first week of December, annual homicide records had been broken in eight of America's twenty largest cities.

New York experienced its 2,000th killing of the year during the first weekend of December, when seven people died in one night. Last year's figure was a record 1,905.

Washington looks certain to retain its title as the murder capital of America, measured by killings as a percentage of population. Last year's record of 434 murders was broken on November 23 and the final tally will be close to 500.

Records have also been broken in Dallas, San Antonio, Phoenix, Memphis, Milwaukee and Boston, and by the end of the month Philadelphia, San Diego and Los Angeles may have joined them. Substantially more killings than last year have occurred in Houston and Chicago, though their respective records, set in 1981 and 1974, are not likely to be breached. Miami, Detroit and Atlanta are among isolated cases of cities where homicide rates have fallen.

Guns and drugs are frequently cited as the most common causes of homicides, but drug-related killings have begun to decrease in several cities. However, drug trafficking has given inner-city youths the resources to buy firearms. Nearly 80 per cent of killings in Washington this year have involved guns, and those charged include about sixty juveniles.

Most killings also involve black youths. Of the 453 killings recorded in Washington by December 11, 374 of the victims were black men. One in 1,000 young black men is now killed each year, ten times the rate for whites. "In some areas of the country it is now more likely for a black male between his 15th and 24th birthdays to die from homicide than it was for a US soldier to be killed on a tour of duty in Vietnam," said Robert Froehkle, principal author of a recent report from the Federal Centre for Disease Control.

Experts regularly point out that, whereas disputes used to be settled by verbal argument or fists, they are now usually settled with bullets.

● NEW YORK: Ten people were killed in this city on Christmas eve and Christmas day. The victims included a mother who died after she was allegedly punched in the face by her son, a man who was shot as he carried holiday packages to his home, another man who was shot at a party and a toddler whose mother was charged with homicide, police said. *(AP)*

Chinese papers pay new homage to Mao

Peking — China's newspapers were full of articles praising Chairman Mao yesterday on his 97th birthday. Last year there was little fuss about the birthday of the late Great Helmsman, but this year lengthy articles raged against bourgeois liberalisation and condemned those who criticised Mao (Catherine Sampson writes).

In recent years leaders have admitted publicly that Mao made many mistakes and Mao worship has become unfashionable. Officially he is assessed as 70 per cent right, 30 per cent wrong. Now old-style Maoists appear to be letting the 30 per cent slip their minds.

Chinese television yesterday showed interminable official meetings held to debate Mao's contributions to mankind. Hundreds of people were shown queueing outside his mausoleum. Foreign visitors say Mao's body now looks more like plastic than preserved flesh, but few Chinese would admit to such sacrilegious suspicions.

Spurned former senator takes literary revenge

From Susan Ellicott in Washington

NO AMOUNT of mistletoe can reconcile Washington's deepest political differences in the so-called season of goodwill — especially when the aggrieved, following a trail towards immortality, turn to the publishing industry to settle old scores.

The latest "kiss and tell" book born of a grudge between the mighty and the fallen in American politics belongs to John Tower, the former Texas senator rejected last year by Congress as President Bush's nominee for Secretary of Defence after allegations of womanising and heavy drinking.

Tower: sending back the slings and arrows

Mr Tower's memoirs missed being this year's highbrow stocking-stuffer since they are not due for publication until February, but extracts from the galley proofs have been ruffling Democratic feathers since *The Washington Post* laid hands on a copy this month.

With a year's hindsight, Mr Tower has uncharitable words for some of his former colleagues who refused to confirm him in a post he coveted. One Democrat has "a reputation as one of the most excessive regular boozers" in the upper house. Another Democrat is "a study in arrogance and pomposity".

Robert Byrd, a Democrat from West Virginia, has "a tendency to resort to flatulent indignation, which alternately amuses and annoys" his peers on Capitol Hill. Mr Tower also aims a low blow at John Glenn, the Ohio Democrat and former astronaut: "Not the brightest guy in Washington."

The Democratic-controlled Senate voted 53 to 47 against Mr Tower in the first significant setback for Mr Bush's presidency. The defeat followed acrimonious hearings led by Sam Nunn, the chairman of the Senate armed services committee, and marked the first ever denial of one of an American president's original cabinet choices.

So persisent were the rumours about Mr Tower's private life that the FBI enquired into his two ended marriages even before the nomination process began. Senator Nunn, a Georgia Democrat, was "blinded by his own ambition" to become president, Mr Tower says in his book, *Consequences*.

He says he believes Senator Nunn was prejudiced against his nomination because he criticised the defence policies of Michael Dukakis, Mr Bush's opponent in the 1988 presidential election. Mr Nunn advised Mr Dukakis on defence matters.

A rare barb thrown at a fellow Republican calls John Warner, of Virginia, "a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sam Nunn" who suffers from "a debilitating political weakness: he wants to be liked by everyone".

Mr Tower has avoided commenting on the leaks from his book.

Conor Cruise O'Brien

Gulf: why it must be war

Christmas, combined with the impending Security Council deadline, seems likely to prompt further peace initiatives in the Gulf. But such initiatives from the West, in present circumstances, will make war more probable. Saddam Hussein is a warlord, according to whose value-system peace initiatives are intrinsically contemptible. In invading and holding on to Kuwait, he is buoyed by his conviction that western countries (especially America) are not prepared to accept the kind of casualties that war with Iraq would entail.

Saddam is most satisified with the results of his virtuoso public relations exploitation of the hostages, culminating in the Christmas releases. As he had foreseen, the hostages — first their predicament, then their release — dominated television coverage of the Gulf, pushing the occupation of Kuwait into the background.

At government level, the alliance against Iraq holds. But popular support for the alliance declines, and opposition to war with Iraq is growing. People are confused, as it was intended they should be. Since Saddam was responsible for releasing the hostages, how can he be the monster people made him out to be? And if he is not a monster, why go to war with *him*?

In America, the growing signs of opposition to war with Iraq are reflected in the polls, in the media and above all in Congress. All the movement of public opinion confirms, in Saddam's mind, the diagnosis he inferred in conversation with the US ambassador, April Glaspie, on the eve of the invasion of Kuwait: America disposes of huge armaments but lacks the stomach for a fight.

The British scene, too, has become more encouraging for Saddam since Mrs Thatcher's fall. Mr Major is committed to her unyielding policy, but it is not in his nature to radiate the same fervour for its pursuit. For Saddam, loss of fervour is loss of credibility. And in present conditions, the change in tone and in temperature of discussion betokens a change in the emphasis of policy.

Noting that change of temperature, I thought of Edmund Burke's comment in *Letters on a Regicide Peace*, on the efforts of Pitt and his colleagues to get out of the conflict with revolutionary France: "Cold as ice themselves, they never could kindle in our breasts a spark of that zeal which is necessary to a conflict with an adverse zeal . . . " Mr Major made little impact in Washington last week. The British politician who did make an impact was Ted Heath: he talked peace, and Congress loved it.

Burke also said, in the same letter from which I have quoted: "A peace too eagerly sought is not always the sooner obtained." Mr Heath and others should meditate on that. In the present situation too eager a search for peace conveys to Saddam that he can safely remain in Kuwait, past the Security Council deadline, then into the desert summer, and then indefinitely.

Developments in the Soviet Union last week will also have brought much comfort to Saddam Hussein. He is bound to see Eduard Shevardnadze's resignation speech and especially the fierce anti-western speech on Friday by the KGB chief, Vladimir Kryuchkov, as the beginning of the end of the grand alliance against him. He will have noted that excessive zeal for the alliance was among the charges brought against Shevardnadze by his military enemies. If the Soviet Union does indeed regress to Stalinism, which is what Shevardnadze fears and Kryuchkov hopes, then the present unanimity in the Security Council is over, a new form of cold war is on, and a new Soviet leadership, whether presided over by Gorbachev or not, will be warning the West against "military adventures" in the Gulf.

What with western eagerness for peace increasing and anti-western feeling rising in key sectors of the Soviet system, Saddam is likely to feel this week — perhaps more than at any time since the military build-up in the Gulf began — that he can get away with holding on to Kuwait. Yet if he does hold on, war is likely to follow, soon after the deadline is past. President Bush simply cannot withdraw that huge force, leaving Saddam securely in possession of Kuwait and dominant in the Arab Middle East. And the American leaders, civil and military, will not want to see their forces still sweating it out in the Gulf with the danger of the Soviet Union returning to Stalinism and the cold war. The arguments in favour of getting the Gulf war over and done with before that new cold war sets in will be hard to resist.

The divergent impact of the Shevardnadze and Kryuchkov speeches — encouraging hardline tendencies in both Baghdad and Washington — is the main factor now making for a Gulf war. And even in the unlikely event of a withdrawal of western forces, leaving Saddam holding Kuwait, war in the Middle East is now inevitable. Iraq, it is reliably reported, will soon have the capacity for nuclear war, perhaps by the end of the coming year. Saddam is already threatening to use chemical weapons against Israel, which is unlikely to wait until he has nuclear weapons as well. So it is no longer a question of whether there will be war, but whether Iraq's adversary will be the present alliance, or Israel alone. It is more likely to be the alliance, with Israel either an unavowed ally or an ally because attacked by Iraq.

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

Someone had scratched "Merry Christmas England" into the firm terra-cotta sand at the beach at Luz. I watched as the incoming tide washed away the message: Merry went first, then one wave obliterated both Christmas and England and I felt a hollow pang of patriotism such as causes people to go to British embassies and sign their names in the visitors' book.

It is our fourth Christmas on the Algarve. Around us they are celebrating with salt cod and broccoli — our oldest allies' traditional food for the feast. Not us. The old cash and carry that restricted custom to hotel keepers, limited companies and liars is now a proper supermarket and I found a shelf marked Peru, boasting upwards of a dozen sub-10lb turkeys.

Why Peru? asked my granddaughter, who had come with me to buy baked beans.

In Portugal, turkey is *peru*, said I, sounding like a United Nations guide who has been at the drinks cupboard.

It is silly, said Martha with the conviction that goes with being seven years old, to call a bird by the name of a country.

We have a Christmas tree in our sitting room: its lights give a whole new significance to the word "flash". There are 40 bulbs: 16 of them zip on then cut out, and a second later the other 24 streak on and off and on, adjoined briefly by the first lot, then nothing, then both, then one, then neither.

Was there not anything quieter? I asked my wife when she brought them back from the electrical shop. It transpires that Portuguese decorative lights flicker: there is no demand for ones that just glow — nasty foreign conservative things.

For most of the year the expat Britons rule okay on the Algarve: come the important times and Brits go to ground (or to restaurants that stage special, ruinous, "with all the trimmings" events) and the indigenous folk walk tall. We were quite lucky to get our tree. At the kiosk near the municipal market where I had bought one last Christmas the woman owner said she was not doing them any more — there was no demand. At the obliging shop by the Funchal Ridge the proprietor told me where I might find one, and true to his word, in Lagos, behind the bus station, an elderly man stood attendance beside an assortment of recently chopped pines.

We said *Bom dia, quanta costa* that one?

He said 1,000 (£4). We nodded agreement and bought it. I tried to fit the tree in the boot of my car; it protruded. The old boy got some string, secured the boot handle to the rear bumper and I thanked him, shook his hand. He said *Mas*, and I said no. I was not going to pay him extra for tying down the lid of my car boot. I shook my head decisively, got behind the wheel, started the engine. He rapped on the window. I said goodbye, drove off, mentioned to my wife that this was unusual behaviour for a Portuguese and that 1,000 was a fair price for that tree. She asked if I had paid him; I asked if she had. Ah.

"For someone who has not been paid for a tree which he loaded into the car and secured with string, he was surprisingly restrained," said my wife. We circled the block, found him standing by his trees counting the money in his wallet and I gave him 1,000 escudos. He said Happy Christmas.

I made a cake for Boxing Day: bought sultanas and raisins and pitted prunes on Friday, left them to soak in local brandy overnight and on Saturday the fruit was just moist and I poured on some more brandy; when this, too, had been assimilated I added another glug on Sunday. Gives a whole new meaning to the term "dried fruit". I baked the cake on Sunday afternoon, iced it on Monday and we had a slice each as we unwrapped presents by the flashing tree on Christmas Day.

I had forgotten about Martha. The 4lb cake contained half a bottle of Borges Five Star. She took a bite and said yuk. I asked her what she meant. It transpired she did not like the icing — all that marzipan and hard white sugar stuff on top.

Dangers of the Lambeth vacuum

George Hill asks if the Church can still afford the leisurely changeover from one Archbishop to his successor

Transfer of supreme political power in Downing Street means that golf-clubs and toothbrushes are hastily bundled out a matter of hours before the triumphant arrival of the new occupant. As for the seals of office, they pass from common hand to royal hand, and back to common, as if red-hot, so that the span in which the sovereign is technically without a chief minister can be measured in minutes.

In the case of the Crown itself, the transfer is theoretically instantaneous: "The king is dead, long live the king." With executive power, the importance of speed is practical; with the Crown it is symbolic, reaffirming continuity.

At Lambeth Palace, things move more slowly. There is no prospect of the retiring Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, having to make a hasty exit through the back of the palace clutching a chasuble and a Gladstone bag while his successor, Dr George Carey, pounds the front door with his crozier.

On the contrary, the changeover will be almost perversely slow. Dr Runcie formally retires at the end of January, but Dr Carey will be no more than an archbishop-elect until March 27, when the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury will meet to elect him as Archbishop. (Barring the greatest ecclesiastical voters' revolt since the Reformation, he has a safe seat: upsets, recounts and alternative votes can scarcely arise, as there is no alternative candidate.)

Runcie: leaves in January

Even that ceremony will confer on him only the "spiritualities" of his office: he will have to wait until a few days before his enthronement on April 19 for the private meeting with the Queen during which she will make him free of the "temporalities", which once meant vast tracts of land but now mean little more than rights of appointment to certain benefices.

So for almost two months there will be no Primate of All England — the established church spiritually rudderless. The long interval is a matter of custom, not a statutory relic of obsolete necessity, such as the two-month delay in America between a presidential election and the inauguration, which was ordained to give the new man time to complete his dispositions in the age of the pony express.

"It is usual to leave a decent space between the departure of one archbishop and the arrival of the next," comments a Lambeth source. "It is felt to be a bit awkward to be serving one archbishop while the other is still around. There is no fixed precedent about how long the interval should be, but this time there is some building work to do at Lambeth Palace, and it will be convenient to allow time for it to be finished in the period between."

There is something thoroughly Anglican about scheduling the elevation of a new primate on the basis that he should not get under the feet of the builders. It is as if a conclave in the Vatican, gathered to elect a new pope, decided to hold back with the white smoke until the Sistine chapel had been fully restored.

During the interregnum (or interarchiepiscopate), the Archbishop of York is designated to carry out any urgent primatial functions that may arise. Lambeth seems a little hazy about just what these might consist of, since coronations and consecrations of bishops do not normally crop up on an emergency basis.

Carey: takes over in March

If a national crisis with overtones of moral disarray breaks in February — and the pace of events in the Gulf makes it all too easy to envisage how one might — Dr Carey would have to rally the nation from some pulpit, not from the bishops' bench in the House of Lords. As Bishop of Bath and Wells, with no great length of service behind him, he will remain too junior to qualify for a seat in the Lords until the election on March 27 formally "translates" him to Canterbury.

The assembly of the World Council of Churches is to meet in Canberra in February. Dr Carey will be there, but as an observer rather than as leader of Britain's interdenominational delegation. The council is too recent an innovation for leadership of the delegation to have become an integral function of the Primate of All England.

Eventually the church will have a fully-functioning archbishop again. It will have been a long haul: from the day Dr Runcie announced that he would resign, and made himself a lame duck incumbent, to that of the election of his successor by the dean and chapter, a year and a day will have passed.

In the calendar of eternity, of course, a year and a day may be little enough, and the six weeks in which the church will be without a leader may count as the twinkling of an eye. Unlike a pope, an archbishop is not a sovereign; nor is he a prime minister. But of all institutions, a church should beware of taking symbolism lightly.

It would not be difficult to arrange a swifter formal handover of power on a basis that did not hamper due preliminary deliberation over the choice of a candidate, nor interfered with the war on dry rot at Lambeth Palace. And a schedule that showed a little more urgency about putting bottoms onto archbishops' thrones might set a higher symbolic value on the primate's role, so reducing the danger of people inferring that the country can get along quite well without an Archbishop of Canterbury.

Roger Boyes in Warsaw contrasts the disappearance of shop queues this Christmas with the long wait for treatment as hospitals become increasingly overstretched

Walk in and buy, at a price

Queues, the symbols of suppressed inflation and economic mismanagement, have become virtually extinct in Poland. An aerial photograph of Warsaw 18 months ago would have revealed masses of tiny worms wriggling around the streets: lines outside meat shops, waiting for baskets at the supermarket, for visas to the West, for lavatory paper, for sugar, for vodka and for mineral water. Now, a year into market reforms, the shortages and the bottlenecks have given way to well-lit shops displaying an abundance of goods, albeit highly priced. There was a sign of the times just before Christmas when the famous pre-war department store, Jablkowskis, reopened for business. But some queues have persisted.

Hundreds of Poles queued in temperatures around -8C outside Wedel, Warsaw's premier chocolate shop, to stock up on Poland's traditional Christmas and New Year treat. A shorter queue of pensioners and women with babies has priority and moves more swiftly into the shop. At the entrance, the confluence of the two lines, there is a flash of temper when an ordinary queuer challenges a fast-lane mother: "That's not your kid," she snaps. "You have just borrowed him to get in first." But the incident is soon smoothed over. This year there is room and chocolate for everyone, and sweets no longer have to be fought over. They are an affordable luxury.

Ten minutes' drive away there is another enduring queue, a grim one. The reception desk at the cancer clinic registers the patients who file into a large room like the waiting hall of a provincial railway station. The receptionists work fast, but the patients keep on coming. They sit on hard plastic, ostentatiously not touching. A man complains about the price of houses — the equivalent of £40,000 for a three-room flat in the centre of Warsaw, maybe £60,000 next year. His wife, or sister, talks about the price of petrol and how they may have to give up their car.

On the face of it, a chocolate shop and a cancer clinic have little in common. One purveys luxuries, the other deals in life and death. But the transition from central planning to market involves just such a jumble of priorities. Together the shop and the hospital provide a snapshot of change.

The Wedel shop is due for privatisation, and the staff are nervous. The wood-panelled, mirrored and chandeliered shop is abuzz with rumour, talk of bids and counterbids. Privatisation should make some of the assistants better off; others will be made redundant. Who will go? Who will stay?

Andrzej Karbowniczek, general manager for the past 25 years, was a close friend of the director of Agros, the state-owned import-export agency. Agros used to monopolise cocoa supplies, and as a result Wedel has been paying considerably more than the free-market price for its cocoa, the cost being passed on to the queuing customers. Agros became richer, and Mr Karbowniczek was appointed to its board. "The situation was absurd, but not really corrupt," insists the deputy privatisation minister, Krzysztof Lis.

Nestlé, the giant chocolate company, expressed an interest in the Wedel privatisation. Then Agros jumped in: it would buy up Wedel, guarantee the 3,000 chocolate factory jobs and raise salaries at a stroke. To the credit of the workers, they refused to believe Agros, whose offer would have anchored the company into a quasi-socialist arrangement. They have chosen Nestlé. Yet the workers remain anxious, and not without reason. Unemployment in Poland touched 1.2 million at Christmas and is likely to climb beyond two million next year.

One queue the free market has failed to disperse: for chocolate

The socialist regime in Poland may not have been committed to supplying luxuries to the population, but it was committed to eradicating the epidemics and unnecessary diseases of the pre-war years: malaria, typhoid, diphtheria. Moreover, it wanted to give everyone equal access to medical treatment, to depart from the kind of practice that allows the rich to buy the best doctors. Hospitals were run with party discipline. Peasant girls were trained as nurses. Excellent medical schools turned out thousands of doctors. But with a population bulge about to enter the age-range most prone to cancer, the system has begun to crack.

The oncology institute was built in 1932 from public donations. Poland has 3,800 beds for cancer patients. It needs at least 6,000. The incidence of cancer, now slightly above the European average, is likely to rise. A new institute has been ten years in the making. The move to the market has given hospitals one advantage: the Polish currency can be freely converted into dollars, allowing hospitals to seek out the most cost-effective suppliers. But there is still a shortfall of cash. Only 24 per cent of male and 42 per cent of female cancer patients in Poland survive for five years, compared to 50 and 60 per cent respectively in America.

Is privatisation a solution for the health service? Dr Jan Steffen, director of the oncology institute, hopes private industrialists will eventually match some of the contributions made over the years by state-owned factories. For this institute, with its tradition of private funding, this may be a way out, but the whole health system cannot survive on charity, and the only chance is to overhaul the medical insurance scheme.

So far a dermatology clinic, privately owned by doctors, has been set up, and there is a private surgery in Warsaw. The cost of a day in the clinic is currently about £10, and private house visits by doctors cost about £5. Gynaecologists are raising the price of abortions (already about £260) in anticipation of a tighter law. So in hospitals at least, the queues will stay.

The transition from a command to a market economy sounds altogether smoother, and more logical in the writings of economists than it is proving in practice. First remove the decayed tooth of the communist economy, then install the efficient state-of-the-art incisor of the free market and proceed to chew. But removing the shards of the old is hard, and the new fits only uncomfortably. And the whole operation is being performed without anaesthetic. Luxuries will still be scarce and medical care hard to afford for the foreseeable future in Poland. Prosperity will still have to wait.

Tomorrow

Charles Bremner reports on Christmas in New York

Bernard Levin's column will appear on Tuesday.

DIARY

Classlessness brought to book

In keeping with John Major's vision of the classless society, *Debrett* is purging itself of superfluous gentry and including 40,000 noteworthy commoners in its *People of Today 1991*. A panel of experts from various fields has just delivered its recommendations, and the names of those who have achieved excellence will nudge out members of the minor aristocracy when the volume is published in March. However, tradition is not being ignored completely, and editor Patsy Ellis confirms that the holders of peerages and baronetcies will continue to be listed, but not their sons and daughters. "We are now selecting people on the basis of merit."

Another change is that unlike *Who's Who*, which keeps people in for life once they have achieved entry, *Debrett* will ruthlessly purge those who subsequently fade from the limelight.

The new, classless entrants will include chef Nico Ladenis, writer Claire Rayner and footballer Paul Gascoigne. Speaking on who gets in from the world of books, consultant editor Kenneth McLeish says: "The criterion is not only intellectual excellence; it also includes literary endeavour. So, alongside the likes of Salman Rushdie and Julian Barnes, I argued for the inclusion of Raymond Briggs, Claire Rayner and Rosamunde Pilcher."

Mary Rose Beaumont, founder of the Centre for the Study of Modern Art at the ICA, chose about 500 individuals for the visual arts section. "Although I picked gallery directors and well-known administrators, I added people like Lewis Biggs, director of the Tate in Liverpool and — by way of encouragement — included many young artists who are not members of the Royal Academy."

Hilary Rubinstein, founder of *The Good Hotel Guide*, chose chefs on the basis of Michelin rosettes and innovative contributions to British cooking. "I like the notion of a book widening the range of people recognised," he says.

For heaven's saké

The Japanese, with typical oriental efficiency, have targeted another untapped and unexploited marketing opportunity: the dead. For those bored by a box or less than crazy about cremation, Japanese companies are now offering a range of designer funeral services at prices to suit every pocket.

For a mere 8 million yen (£32,000), Makuri Skynet will broadcast, via satellite, a one-hour funeral service to three different locations within Japan. This offer is apparently particularly attractive to corporations which deem that their employees are too busy at bench or desk to pay their respects to former colleagues.

But the ultimate after-life accessory is provided by Kyocera Corporation, manufacturers of high-tech ceramics. In addition to the usual pension and death benefits, this model employer tells staff that for a small additional premium, it will try to arrange for them to meet beyond the grave "as they have in this world to talk, inspire each other and exchange cups of saké".

Work in progress

With coffee tables beginning to groan under the weight of volumes marking Mozart's bicentenary, the Book Trust and the Society of Authors are proposing a scheme to slim down the glut. Martyn Goff of the Trust wants to revive the confidential register of commissioned titles which operated briefly in the mid-1970s. Administered by the Arts Council, this allowed publishers to make enquiries about forthcoming titles, to ensure that rivals were not working on similar projects. "It would save a lot of money and avoid flooding the market," says Goff. "For example, there were recently three biographies of the poet Isaac Rosenberg. All lost money, whereas one would have been profitable."

But not all authors support the idea. Peter Ackroyd, who is now working on a biography of William Blake, prefers a scholarly free-for-all. "A register would make no difference at all," he says. Michael Holroyd, Bernard Shaw's biographer, also has his doubts. "Last time it was the publishers who killed the scheme. They said it would result in another Watergate. The temptation to break into the building one night and make a killing by rushing out a biography before a rival was just too great."

Soft cell

With the advertising industry as hard hit by the recession as any, a glimmer of light appears with the opportunity to exploit a captive market. Eric McGraw, the managing editor of *Time*, a new quarterly for occupants of Her Majesty's prisons, says he is considering selling space in the second issue, due in the New Year, offering advertisers access to 50,000 prisoners in the nation's jails. Although inmates receive only an average weekly wage of £2.70, the Home Office says the total annual expenditure of the prison population amounts to £18 million a year.

"There are marvellous opportunities for advertisers," says Mark Robinson, a director of the HDM advertising agency. "For a start, it would be a great way to build long-term brands." Charity advertisers might cash in on the number of prisoners who turn to philanthropy, and with tobacco regularly replacing cash as a currency — "snout" to the initiated — cigarette manufacturers are unlikely to miss the chance.

Would McGraw turn away any advertising? "We might have to draw the line at manufacturers of rope-ladders," he says.

Four d'oeuvres

Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, will start 1991 with a crusade: to abolish the first course of business lunches. Cigar-chomping Grade believes that millions of pounds are lost every year while captains of industry and others whose time is precious have to work their way through the hors d'oeuvres and the soup.

"Busy people should not have to wait for the main course," he says. "They should go straight into it and be back at their desks at the latest by 2.30."

He admits that early soundings have produced few supporters, even among his own staff, but is not deterred. "I am thinking of writing to the prime minister or to the EC in Brussels. If that doesn't work I shall find an MP to sponsor a private member's bill," he says.

● *A colleague travelled north to York on the 1400 train from King's Cross shortly before Christmas and went to the restaurant car to order lunch. "Sorry, sir, you're too late. We are now serving afternoon tea," the steward told him. The following day he retured to London from Wigan on the 1610. Again he made his way to the restaurant car, this time ordering afternoon tea. "Too early, sir, we are still serving lunch," he was told.*

UNSTEADY AS SHE GOES

Like Ulysses beset by tempests, Mikhail Gorbachev appears unable to control where fate will take him. His leadership is without much dignity, valour or even wisdom. Most of his early comrades have fallen and nerves are snapping among his remaining crew.

The exhaustion which appears to have wrecked the prime minister's health was manifest during this past week's Soviet Congress not only in the resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze but more alarmingly in the diatribe against all things foreign by General Vladimir Kryuchkov, the head of the KGB. Yet Mr Gorbachev's new powers show that the existing captain remains unchallenged — whether because after him there is only chaos is still unclear.

Mr Gorbachev has proposed referenda on the most drastic questions to have faced the Union since the advent of communism: whether it should continue in existence and what sort of politico-economic system should prevail within it. The first question is to be addressed explicitly, the second indirectly by asking the people whether they approve of private land ownership. In principle, such referenda are both reasonable and consistent with international practice, provided the residents of each constituent republic are separately counted. The economic debate is correctly concentrated on the one issue of private ownership, the rejection of which is fundamental to communism.

Yet Mr Gorbachev appears to have misunderstood both issues. He has prejudged the question of the Soviet Union's existence in advance of any referendum. His recent speeches suggest that the new authoritarian phase of his political journey will have but one clear objective: to preserve the Soviet Union in more or less its present form. Hence the military and secret police allies ever closer round him; hence his desertion by his more outspoken reform-minded colleagues. The Kremlin doubtless feels that the rule of Soviet law can only be re-established through virtually untrammeled executive power. But democracy has rarely grown out of the barrel of a gun.

There is no mystery about the cause of the Soviet Union's present economic and political crisis: Mr Gorbachev's failure to back the radical Shatalin Plan for swift conversion to a market economy. Having demoralised the command economy, he has not had the courage, of perhaps even the understanding, to see the urgency of replacing it promptly. If government trucks cannot move food, then private sector ones must be encouraged to do so. Yet Mr Gorbachev, facing the collapse of communism and unwilling to give the market free rein, is now turning to a third force, the army. Authoritarian rule has always offered the seductive way out of hard choices.

Mr Gorbachev cannot avoid this bind. If he goes down the authoritarian route that he appears to have chosen, he will find the markets on whose help he professes to call ever more dislocated, criminalised and inegalitarian. He will find the public less ready to accept the disciplines and short-term hardship that markets bring. The pluralist social democracy and economic freedom that he once heralded will thus be a sick dream.

There is, for much of his country, perhaps one way out: emphatically to reject the Union in the referendum and opt unilaterally for economic reform. But that means Mr Gorbachev must face down his new friends among the hard-liners, some of whom have indicated they would regard the break-up of the Union as a worse outcome even than the collapse of communism.

Mr Gorbachev is still able to count on Western financial support and technical assistance. Unless and until he develops a strategy to match, his appeals for patience from his people are unjustified and his demands for discipline may be impossible to enforce without bloodshed. There are now two referenda in the offing. Mr Gorbachev's handling of them will be crucial, not just to Western responses to his appeal for help, but to the future of the Soviet Union itself. Seldom has an empire put itself to this sort of test. The omens are not good. But the worst has not yet come to pass. All eyes will remain on Moscow this coming month.

FOR ART'S SAKE

Theatre sharpens the mind and imparts civilised values. These also happen to be two functions of education. Should it follow, then, that children ought to experience professional drama at close quarters as a regular part of their schooling? As reported on today's arts page, the chance of their doing so is diminishing, as drama companies aimed specifically at children go out of business.

There is no single culprit involved. Like the decline in school sports, also reported in today's paper, there is more a vague passing of the buck. The Department of Education feels that the Arts Council should pay for theatre enterprises, even those, such as the young people's theatres attached to regional repertory companies, run for educational purposes. The Arts Council has many hungry mouths to feed, and most of these can raise the decibels far higher than an educational theatre company. Some charge-capped local authorities which have supported educational drama now consider it an obvious target for the chop. So do regional repertory theatres struggling to keep open their main houses. The 1988 Education Reform Act has also made it more difficult for state schools to charge parents for theatre visits organised in school hours.

Not even the acting profession is blameless. Appearing in educational theatre is not well paid, but that does not account for the stigma often attached to it. Actors who are "resting" sometimes regard schools theatre as barely preferable to singing telegrams. This has not helped its reputation among parents, teachers or, indeed, children. Tacky productions, often with a hackneyed agit-prop political message, will not foster a love of theatre or an understanding of English literature. Yet good educational theatre can stimulate pupils as can few other activities.

The smell of greasepaint still works magic on cynical teenagers: contempt, boredom or bafflement can be turned into remarkable enthusiasm. In this respect, film or video productions can never match the physical impact of live theatre. Actors can use the allure of their trade to fuel this enthusiasm through discussion and workshops. Because dramatists customarily deal with humanity's great concerns, teenagers not only learn dramatic technique, but also explore their responses to the world outside. Teachers who prepare the ground thoroughly attest that contact with live theatre can be a springboard for classroom lessons for weeks afterwards.

Educational theatre thus pays a sound dividend, not least in building a theatre audience of tomorrow. The government argues that its list of priorities is long enough and that parents must be the ones voluntarily to take children to the theatre. But how stands that argument alongside the draconian powers being taken to insist on the involuntary learning of mathematics or science — or for that matter English, of which drama is an integral part? From Marlowe to Miller, the canon of drama is a locked treasure-chest, waiting for each new generation. Parents have their part to play in goading the schools to find the key. But the key is held by educators and their political masters, or at least is lost somewhere between them. The arts ministry should never have been removed from the aegis of the education department, yielding this typical instance of irresponsibility.

CONSERVATION DOUBLE-SPEAK

The new environment secretary, Michael Heseltine, must turn his attention urgently to one of his old stamping grounds, laws guarding the conservation areas of England and Wales. Next month, the House of Lords hears an appeal against the decision of an earlier incumbent of his chair, Nicholas Ridley, to allow redevelopment of No 1, Poultry, a site covering an entire acre of the City of London's central conservation area.

If this site can be redeveloped, planning lawyers take the view that no conservation area is safe from demolition by a sufficiently determined and wealthy developer. In this case, the developer is ironically the chairman of the Arts Council, Lord Palumbo, who in other guises is expected to protect Britain's cultural heritage. One of the environment department's inspectors recently asserted: "The designation of a conservation area is not in my opinion intended as a means to secure the preservation of buildings that are not judged worthy of listing."

Such a conclusion undermines the whole purpose of having conservation areas at all. Precisely because these areas are usually attractive places to live, work and shop, pressure for redevelopment has constantly risen. But there is a flaw in the legislation which government policy, or the lack of it, has allowed developers to exploit. The act does not say that the purpose of a conservation area is to "preserve and enhance" but "preserve *or* enhance".

Developers argue that there is no reason to refuse them a demolition of any building within a conservation area not specifically listed for preservation, providing the replacement "enhances" the scene. Such a proviso is not just moot but wholly subjective. In some cases it could enable the demolition of every building that was supposedly conserved, as numerous designated areas do not contain any listed buildings. It was in this spirit that 80 per cent of some conservation areas in the City of London were demolished in the 1970s, making a mockery of designation.

When control over demolition in conservation areas was originally introduced, the government of the day stated the reason clearly and unequivocally: "The demolition of even a single building which may not be architecturally or historically significant in itself and the construction of some new building in its place, could result in the character or appearance of a conservation area, or part of it, being severely prejudiced. In such circumstances the whole purpose of designating the conservation area could be undermined."

This admirable statement was excised from the latest planning circular from Mr Heseltine's department. No conservation area should be frozen for all time — parts of the City of Westminster successfully blend old and new within conservation areas — but the scales are weighted too heavily against conservation. Local planners should be free of the blight of developers able successfully to appeal against them because of poorly drafted legislation. Michael Heseltine should show his disregard for civil service gobbledy-gook when he issues his new planning policy guidelines shortly. The words "conserve" and "enhance" must not be interchangeable with "demolish".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Unions' role in a free market

From the General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress

Sir, Your leader of December 20, "Bridlington haunts TUC", in arguing for a totally free-market approach to trade union membership, reveals a simplistic misunderstanding of the realities of industrial relations. Such an approach would make it impossible for employers and unions to establish stable relationships.

You refer to European practice, but the much vaunted German system is based on industrial unions with very clear designated areas of trade union organisation. There is no question there of any union having rights other than the one recognised to bargain in that industry.

The British system is less clear cut, but the TUC's "Bridlington" procedures provide a means of regulating competition between unions to minimise conflict and prevent the disruption of established agreements. A free-market approach would encourage anarchy, instability and conflict, with damaging consequences for Britain's economic performance.

It has become fashionable for employers setting up new sites to seek single-union agreements. Such agreements would of course be incompatible with the free-market doctrine you espouse.

Inter-union disputes occur from time to time because of changes in work organisation, or technology or ownership or the opening of new plants. The "Bridlington" principles and procedures provide a way of resolving these conflicts without dislocation. Through their operation the TUC provides an essential service to the nation.

But inter-union problems are tiny compared with the much bigger problem of workers being denied by their employer the right to be represented by any union. This is the problem that should be addressed by government.

Yours sincerely,
NORMAN WILLIS,
General Secretary,
Trades Union Congress,
Congress House,
Great Russell Street, WC1.
December 21.

From Mr David Wood

Sir, The concept of trades unions operating in the market place on the same basis as Bupa or the AA may at first sight appear attractive for the reasons you state in your leading article. However, you made no reference to the third actor on the stage in addition to the potential member and the union: that is, the employer.

If a person has the right to join any union they wish, this utopian scenario would demand that they have the same right to be represented across the negotiating table by that organisation. Pity the poor employer who had 100 employees in different unions. What is he supposed to do?

The Bridlington agreement is not about the closed shop or any other red herring. It is about seeking to retain order in the complex world of industrial relations where recognition of a union by an employer for negotiating purposes is a vital element. Pure democracy and total freedom of choice sounds fine on paper but is, in fact, a recipe for chaos.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WOOD
(Industrial Relations Officer),
The British Dietetic Association,
Elizabeth House,
22 Suffolk Street Queensway,
Birmingham 1.
December 20.

Privatisation offers

From Mr W. M. Forrest

Sir, As an unsuccessful customer-applicant for electricity shares, I have three questions to ask. Did the words "customer priority application form" effectively warrant that, in the event of an over-subscription, a customer who applied for any number of shares (not less than the minimum) would receive one or more shares ahead of and in the stead of all non-customers?

If so, did that constitute a deception? And did the allocation to non-customers rather than customers result in a pecuniary benefit to any person?

Yours sincerely,
WILL FORREST,
42 Lingfield Road,
Wimbledon Common, SW19.

Case against VAT

From Mr David Irons

Sir, Anthony Hopkinson writes amusingly (December 14) about the complexities of the value-added tax. But perhaps we should remind ourselves that VAT was part of the package we had to accept when we entered the Common Market.

It replaced the much simpler purchase tax, in which duties on goods were sensibly paid once only at the manufacturing or wholesale stage. VAT is for fiscal purposes what the common agricultural policy is for agriculture, a bureaucratic millstone.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID IRONS,
Bryn Hyfryd, Llansadwrn,
Menai Bridge, Gwynedd.
December 16.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

No-fault medical compensation

From Mrs Margaret Puxon, QC

Sir, The principle of no-fault compensation (leading article, December 12) sounds a fine, liberal piece of "common justice". But to whom is this justice to be expended? To the victims of medical accidents alone, it appears; but what of the innocent victims of road traffic accidents, unable to obtain compensation unless they prove negligence on the part of another road user?

The child, brain-damaged in a road accident, may need as much care and suffer as great a loss of amenity as one similarly damaged during the birth process or by a hypoxic incident during anaesthesia; and he may have to go through years of legal process to obtain damages which will only be awarded on proof that his sufferings were directly caused by the defendant's negligence.

This is a funny kind of justice. So we must ask *cui bono?* Can it be that those who favour no-fault compensation in medical cases are considering the interests of the doctor or, to be fair, the protection of the doctor/patient relationship, rather than the general public good with equal treatment for all?

If there is to be no-fault compensation, logically it should be extended to the unfortunate victims of genetic accident, such as spina bifida, cystic fibrosis, or Down's syndrome, who demand our sympathy for their blighted lives and have material means rivalling those of the victims of medical accidents.

Limitless vistas of compensation for the unfortunate stretch out ahead.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET PUXON,
Francis Taylor Building,
Temple, EC4.

From Sir Michael McNair-Wilson, MP for Newbury (Conservative)

Sir, In her otherwise excellent report (December 13) Jill Sherman states that "there is a growing band of support for a system of no-fault compensation under which all victims of medical accidents would get state support irrespective of whether medical negligence can be proved."

Not every mishap in hospital is a compensatable medical accident. Hospitals are full of disease and infection simply because they are places for the sick. Those who go to them are either ill or in need of surgery. Thus becoming an in-patient means they accept a level of health risk.

I do not think any compensation scheme can handle that level of risk without becoming unreasonably expensive. Indeed it is interesting to note that in Finland and Sweden, which have compensation schemes, only 60 per cent of those who make claims get anything. Their schemes accept medical accidents according to the definition set down in their legislation.

If we are intending to follow them — and I am one of the sponsors of Mrs Rosie Barnes's bill — I suggest we will have to follow suit.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL McNAIR-WILSON,
House of Commons.

From Mr David Bolt

Sir, In your timely and cogent leading article on no-fault compensation you state that "the medical profession has started pressing for it, too". In fact, there has been pressure since 1983 when, in response to requests from members, the British Medical Association set up a working party to study how best a no-fault compensation system might be achieved.

In January 1989, in collaboration with the Royal Society of Medicine, a symposium on the subject was held in London, during which the BMA described, in detail, how such a system could be operated. A report on its likely cost, on the lines proposed by the association, should be ready for publication in early January.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BOLT (Chairman,
No-fault compensation
working party),
British Medical Association,
BMA House,
Tavistock Square, WC1.

From Miss Ruth E. Allen

Sir, Miss Sarah Leigh states (December 13) that "each child with cerebral palsy is an overwhelming disaster for its family, for the health service and above all for itself".

Initially, the knowledge of a child having cerebral palsy must be devastating for all the family, but this need not last. Positive thought, action and attitude are important and the disability may not be overall. There are several degrees of cerebral palsy and many variations as to the level of handicap. Coping with them is relative to the difficulties experienced.

Although having cerebral palsy myself I am fortunate enough not to be "disabled" by it at all, having a responsible position in a full-time capacity, and with good career prospects.

I remain, yours faithfully,
RUTH E. ALLEN,
6 Elgin Road, Croydon, Surrey.

A new world order

From Canon G. B. Bentley

Sir, If the international force, with UN authority, launches an attack to expel the Iraqis from Kuwait, it will not, properly speaking, be going to war: it will be carrying out a police operation. The Security Council was intended from the first to organise the policing of trouble-spots, but for years it dithered helplessly, unable to agree on action. Now at last it has empowered member states to deal with a case of international delinquency.

Where police action is concerned we do not ordinarily ask if the result will justify the cost of the action because we take the supreme importance of maintaining law and order for granted. In the present case, however, there are questions that demand answers.

Do the UN resolutions go far enough? If the international force succeeds in expelling the Iraqis from Kuwait but, being restricted by the UN, does not go on to disarm them, can that be regarded as effective police action? Will not the delinquents be left in a position to renew their depredations whenever they judge the time to be ripe? And, if so, does the restricted objective outweigh the casualties its pursuit will entail?

Our answers will depend on the value we set on the slow and often disheartening process of creating a world order. I am inclined to think myself that giving effect to the welcome new decisiveness of the UN is crucially important, even though the resolution does not go as far as could be wished.

If the international force succeeds in liberating Kuwait, it will increase respect for the Security Council, give international law and order a needed shot in the arm, and bring a salutary deterrent influence to bear on Iraq or any other state contemplating lawless action in the future.

Yours faithfully,
G. B. BENTLEY,
5 The Cloisters,
Windsor Castle, Berkshire.
December 21.

Lotteries dilemma

From Mr R. A. Cummins

Sir, The potential to make huge sums of money for the arts, recreation and research by establishing a national lottery ("Moves towards national lottery gather pace", December 21) is probably an exaggerated dream. Accurate performance figures for most of the world's lotteries are published annually by the International Association of State Lotteries. While these figures are impressive, they cannot be used to extrapolate the possible performance of a national lottery in the UK.

Most national lotteries have a total monopoly of all legal gambling. In the UK, where almost every form of gambling is allowed, the public's gambling habits are highly stable and well served by established organisations.

Where lotteries have been introduced, after long periods of total gambling prohibition, as in America, their instant success can be understood. In North America a debate has been going on in a number of states and provinces about spending the lottery proceeds on the arts.

The predominant American lottery player is from socio-economic groups C1 and C2, whereas the American audience for the arts is predominantly socio-economic group AB, who least support their state lotteries. Local politicians of a popularist persuasion argue, why should an elitist audience be subsidised by those who would benefit more if the lottery profits were spent on more generally used services?

In 1980 you published a Mori poll indicating a public preference for health care to receive the profits from any proposed national lottery. This seems to indicate that the American idea that the players should have some indirect benefit from their "folly" would also have strong support in the UK.

Yours sincerely,
R. A. CUMMINS
(Executive Director),
NHS Loto,
National Hospital Trust,
119 Horseley Fields,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands.
December 21.

Legal aid work

From Mr Martin Kurrein

Sir, The public will be understandably concerned at today's report (December 13) on the number of solicitors who are withdrawing from legal aid practice. It is, in fact, only solicitors who are entitled to refuse to accept instructions for legally-aided clients.

It is a fundamental principle of practice for all barristers, as defined in the code of conduct of the Bar of England and Wales, that

"... he must in any field in which he professes to practise and irrespective of whether his client is paying privately or is legally aided or otherwise publicly funded: (a) accept any brief to appear before a court ...; (b) accept any instructions; (c) act for any person ..."

Any breach of this rule amounts to professional misconduct, for which a barrister may be reported.

As solicitors and barristers are the sole legal professionals who have rights of audience in the courts of this country, may we expect those solicitors who wish to exercise those rights to be bound by similar rules, or will the rights of the ordinary person be further eroded by the Treasury's parsimony and the greed of those solicitors (unlike many I know with substantial and profitable legal aid practices) who decline such work?

Yours,
MARTIN KURREIN,
2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, EC4.

Italians seen as good Europeans

From the Ambassador of Italy

Sir, One of your leader writers ("O Sole Mio?", December 15) went recently to Italy and was surprised to see so many Fiats, so many Italian domestic appliances and so many Olivetti computers, and draws the conclusion that the Italians are consequently bad Europeans. He probably does not travel much. Had he been to France he would not fail to have noticed a large number of Renaults, whilst in Germany he would have been struck by the number of Volkswagens.

I rather sympathise with the poor chap's feelings. There aren't too many British cars to be seen around anywhere these days, nor washing-machines (one large manufacturer in the UK is in fact Italian but has to sell its products under an English name in order to please the market); whilst many British computer companies are being bought up by the Japanese.

The figure for imports from other European countries in relation to GNP may be slightly lower for Italy than it is for Britain or France (though why not include exports as well?), and true, the inflation rate in Italy is higher than it is in Germany (though still almost half that of Britain's). So what?

Rather more serious, however, is the argument regarding Italy's poor record in applying EC directives. But this is due to elaborate legislative procedures, which are in-built in the system, rather than to a lack of European spirit. Why don't we bet that by next spring, thanks to priority which will be given in parliamentary procedures to Europe legislation, Italy will rate third or fourth as far as incorporation of EC directives into national law is concerned? Will the Italians thereby become good Europeans?

May I suggest that true feelings towards Europe are reflected not only in statistics but in the kind of livid comments on the performance of partners such as those contained in your editorial. As long as I don't see an article on Britain in an Italian newspaper entitled "Humpty Dumpty", I shall feel reasonably reassured.

Yours faithfully,
BORIS BIANCHERI,
Italian Embassy,
1 Grosvenor Square, W1.
December 20.

School music

From the Headmaster of the Yehudi Menuhin School

Sir, Michael Kellner (December 17) rightly warns us of the cuts now facing musical instrument tuition in our schools. Without the free instrumental tuition provided by the local education authorities, many of the highly gifted pupils at the Yehudi Menuhin School would never have had the opportunity to start learning a musical instrument, nor would their talent ever have been discovered.

In my experience, exceptional young musicians frequently come from families least able to afford private lessons. It would be a tragedy if the change to "local management in schools" meant that this country's children were denied the opportunity even to begin to develop their musical gifts.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS CHISHOLM,
The Yehudi Menuhin School,
Stoke d'Abernon, Cobham, Surrey.
December 18.

Poll tax changes

From Mr W. L. Abernethy

Sir, How the wheel turns full circle! From 1954 to 1956 I was a member of a study group under the chairmanship of Mr F. A. (now Lord) Cockfield, set up by the Royal Institute of Public Administration to examine new sources of revenue for local authorities. Our report, published in 1956, recommended, among other things, that local authorities should be given power to levy a local income tax.

The government of the day thanked us for our suggestion, and that was the last we heard of it. I now recommend its perusal to Mr Heseltine.

Yours faithfully,
W. L. ABERNETHY,
6 Thornhill Close,
Port Erin, Isle of Man.

Dear diaries

From Dr M. J. Kinch

Sir, At this time of the year I am invited to pay as much as £10 for a desk diary, a book consisting of about 400 all-but-blank pages which I have to fill in myself. The same price buys me a book three times as thick, with its pages already filled in with the complete works of William Shakespeare.

Yours faithfully,
M. KINCH,
32a Chiltern Road,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire.
December 22.

Doing nicely?

From Mr Tim Owen

Sir, American Express wrote to me offering an accident protection plan paying up to £250,000 in the event of "death or dismemberment due to a serious accident". It is not clear that this includes cover for both in the event of a less than serious accident.

Yours faithfully,
TIM OWEN,
101 North Street,
Burwell, Cambridge.
December 22.

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
December 24: The Prince of Wales arrived at Royal Air Force Marham this morning from Saudi Arabia.

Major-General Sir Christopher Airy and Commander Richard Aylard, RN, were in attendance.

December 25: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish *Church this morning.*

Birthdays today

Miss Anne Armstrong, American *diplomat, 63;* Viscount Astor, 39; Sir Gordon Brunton, former president, International Thomson Organisation, 69; Captain N.F. Crump, racehorse trainer, 80; Lieutenant-Colonel *Sir Thomas Devitt, shipbroker* and former rugby player, 88; Miss Marlene Dietrich, actress, 86; Professor Brian Griffiths (life peer), economist, 49; Air Chief Marshal Sir Derek Hodgkinson, 73.

The Earl of Inchcape, 73; Viscount Knutsford, 64; Miss Pat Moss, former rally driver, 56; Professor D.H. Northcote, master, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, 69; Sir Anthony Plowman, former High Court judge, 85; Professor B.R. Rees, former principal, St David's University College, Lampeter, 71; Sir Norman Reid, former director, Tate Gallery, 75; Dr E.C. Salthouse, master, University College, Durham, 55; Sir Jeffrey Sterling (life peer), chairman, Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, 56; Miss Janet Street-Porter, broadcaster, 44; the Right Rev A.M.A. *Turnbull, Bishop of* Rochester, 55; Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, former director, WRAC, 87.

Recession a catalyst for church action

By Ruth Gledhill, Religious Affairs Reporter

THE ROLE of the church will become more crucial if governments make economic cuts to weather a recession in the West, according to a Church of England report which addresses some of the problems of inner city regeneration.

The gospel teachings of love, justice, peace and integrity must be related to quality, *efficiency* and *profitability*, especially when focused on the needs and aspirations of inner cities, the report says.

A combination of spiritual criteria and practical concepts could help transform inner cities, according to the report. The Rev Chris Beales, the author, calls for new ideas to bring about "the changes that are so urgently needed."

Mr Beales, secretary of the Industrial and Economic Affairs Committee of the General Synod's Board for Social Responsibility, says: "My experience of too many projects in urban priority areas has been that there are already enough car repairers, window cleaners and odd jobbers around. New, risky, imaginative proposals are needed in places where everything else has been tried and found wanting."

In the report, Mr Beales argues it is not just a matter of "individual entrepreneurs coming out of the woodwork with their brilliant schemes.

"Such people are rarely to be found in depressed areas, and if they do exist, and their ideas are good ones, they'll not be sticking around in that locality for long."

He called for a "collective identification of real needs" followed by a systematic strategy.

Mr Beales, who based his study on a three-week visit to the US, said the report was intended as a contribution to debate and not to represent the policy of the board.

Mainstream and Marginal: Creating Economic Change in Inner City Life, £1.35 Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1 3NZ.

Passing-out parade at Dartmouth

Vice-Admiral Sir Kenneth Eaton, Controller of the Navy, took the salute at the passing-out parade at the Britannia Royal Naval College on December 20.

Officers passing out:

General List

Acting Sub Lieutenants: P A Brown; C Greener; J P Ryan; A Sweeney.

Midshipmen: J W Atwill; M G Bird; J B Boyle; J W Bradford; C R Carlisle; T Dearman; A P Drodge; M J Ketteringham; K Macaulay; C A Murdoch; M R Offord; D Patterson; A M Pym; D J Skinner; B M Stephen; M T Tomlyn; S M Williamson; D M Wilman; P J Wynell-Sutherland.

Supplementary List

Acting Sub Lieutenants: N M Bennet; M C Best; S W Hamilton; I S Lower.

Midshipmen: N J Addison; R Allen; A D Bissell; D D Buckley; C L Chapman; J R Childs; P A Clarke; S P Connolly; S Craggs; P G Douglas; J H De Salaberry Lewis; P M Dollah; W A Fletcher; A M Flower; R R Forman; R P Goodbody; A D Goshng; H I Gunn; J A Haine; C S Hall; M I Hamilton; A P Hartley; L S Hendy; J Hider; C M Hodge; J G Hughes; T O Hughes; D C Hurndall; R J Lindsey; C Lovick; H A Muntz; M A Nicholls; J M Penprase; J Pugh; K Reeves; S Reid; T J Sandford; I C Sherratt; R I Smallwood; S R Speirs; S J Wallace; I F Webb.

Supplementary List (Air)

Acting Sub Lieutenants: D A Fielder; S J Hill; D J Lindsay; S J Moulton; G L Richardson; J R Waring.

Midshipmen: G Allison; T C Birmingham; S P Bratby; M Brayson; G S Duncan; T F Gregory; A J Grunwell; C R Hudson; P I Jones; M S Long; R J Lord; K R Mercer; S D Mills; D Pilkington; A M Roberts; S A Rowley; G A Stubbs; T J Waite; P A Waldron; R S Ward.

Instructor Officers

Lieutenants: M Albon; D I Channer; S M Holland; W D Norris; W A Owen; S Tailor.

Acting Sub Lieutenants: K D Kirk; M P McGinley; G Oliver.

Special Duties List

Acting Sub Lieutenant: A S Arnold; M C Baker; E J Beaton; G A Bridgewater; J D Coyne; N P Doyle; M Gudgeon; M G Helliwell; A Horne; S W Hutt; M D Johnson; J Kerr; R Knights; G Miller; R P Stephens; A D Stillwell-Cox; R D Swift; L J Thorne; R S Tucker; E G Walker; M Wardle; M J Wills; S W Wright; C Wyatt.

International Midshipmen

Second Lieutenants: N S Mohammed Abdullah; M Z Mohammed Gasem.

Midshipmen: A Abdullah Salim; S A Ali Moosa; A Bader Mohammed; C R Darville; A K Gregory; R A Hamood Mohammed; M L Hanna; B Harib Al Mass; S A Ibrahim Ahmed; K A Khamis Said; R E King; A B Mohammed Abdul; O S Mohammed Ali; H Saeed Nahyan; B A Tariq Essa; A Thani Harith; E M Wright.

Officer Cadets: A K Rahaimi; A R Zil Husam.

OBITUARIES

FOY KOHLER

Mr Foy D. Kohler, United States ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1962 to 1966, died in hospital in Jupiter, Florida, on December 23 aged 82. He was born on February 15, 1908.

FOY Kohler had been in Moscow as US ambassador for less than a month when the Cuban missile crisis broke, involving him in important liaison work as *tensions* between the American and Soviet leadership mounted. Kohler had been sent to Washington by President *Kennedy to keep* open channels of communication at a difficult time. He had deep experience of eastern Europe, spoke Russian and was well known to the Soviet leader, Mr Khrushchev, whom he had accompanied on his tour of the United States in 1959. Kohler had also been a member of the Berlin task force *during the crisis over the city* in 1961.

When in October 1962 President Kennedy informed the American people that the Soviet Union had placed offensive missiles in Cuba and ordered United States warships to intercept Soviet ships bound there, Kohler became a conduit for the intensive backstage diplomacy that followed, as fears of a head-on clash between the two super powers mounted. In the upshot this diplomacy enabled Khrushchev to climb down from his publicly stated position and recall the missiles from Cuba, and Kennedy's assurance that Cuba would, in consequence, be safe from American attack, defused a most dangerous crisis in relations between East and West, which had at moments seemed to threaten the world with the specre of nuclear war.

Foy David Kohler was a far cry from the tall, elegant Ivy League-educated animal to which the world had become accustomed in American diplomats at that date. He was born in Oakwood, Ohio, and took degreees at Toledo and Ohio State universities. He was a stocky man with an accent often described as: "flat as the plains of northern Ohio". He entered the US foreign service in 1931 and after a series of postings including Bucharest, Belgrade and Athens, spent some time at the American embassy in London during the war. From 1946 onwards he was more or less directly concerned with Soviet affairs. After attending the conference at San Francisco which resulted in the birth of the United Nations, he went in 1948 as, successively, first secretary, counsellor and minister to the US embassy in Moscow. This experience, allied to his knowledge of Russian and the Russian psychology, made him realise that patient determination was an essential component of all dealings with the Soviet Union. In 1949 he was brought back from Moscow and put in charge of expanding the overseas broadcasting of Voice of America.

In 1958 he became deputy assistant secretary of state for European affairs and developed a close understanding of the Berlin problem. As well as arranging most of the details of Khrushchev's US tour he accompanied Richard Nixon when, as US vice-president, he visited the Soviet Union in 1959. On that occasion Kohler's *authority in Soviet circles*, indeed with Khrushchev himself, was decisive in ensuring that Nixon's speeches were broadcast in their entirety in the USSR and that his informal talks with Soviet officials were interpreted by an American, not by a Russian. During his period as ambassador in Moscow Kohler had a good deal of personal contact with the Soviet leadership. Though he nursed an ultimate conviction that US-Soviet relations could be improved he was never under any illusions that it would be an uphill struggle. He always advised professional colleagues never to make the mistake of viewing any problem concerning the intentions of the Soviet Union in isolation, but to see the USSR's foreign policy as an organic whole.

Kohler left Moscow in 1966 to become deputy under secretary of state for political affairs but he retired from diplomacy soon afterwards and from 1968 to 1980 he taught at the University of Miami's graduate centre for advanced foreign studies. He published a number of books on the Soviet Union including *Understanding the Russians: a citizen's primer* (1970) and a number of jointly written studies on Soviet strategy. *Salt II: how not to negotiate with the Russians* appeared in 1979 and encapsulated much of his wisdom on the topic.

While he had been in Moscow in 1946-47 his wife, Phyllis, had read the journal of the Marquis de Custine, who had been a French diplomat in St Petersburg in 1839. Intrigued by the similarities between Tsarist and Soviet Russia, she translated and edited the journal which was published as *Journey for Our Time* in 1951. She survives him.

DR GEOFFREY WEST

Dr Geoffrey Buckle West, former reader in pharmacology at the London School of Pharmacy and the North East London Polytechnic, died on December 5 aged 74. He was born on September 13, 1916.

GEOFFREY West was one of the pioneers of modern immunopharmacology. His discovery, with J. F. Riley in 1952, of the localisation of histamine in tissue mast cells laid the foundations for much of our current understanding of allergic and inflammatory disease and formed the basis of nearly four decades of research by countless scientists throughout the world.

Geoffrey West graduated Bachelor of Pharmacy in 1938 from the College of the Pharmaceutical Society, later known as the School of Pharmacy of the University of London. He was appointed as a demonstrator in physiology under the headship of J. H. (later Sir Jack) Gaddum and then placed in charge of the department of physiology and pharmacology within the London School of Pharmacy, following its evacuation to University College, Cardiff, in 1939. While in Cardiff West met his future wife, Jean. He continued his research there on the hormone adrenaline and obtained his PhD in 1942 before returning to London with the School of Pharmacy in 1944. In 1947 he spent nine months working in Edinburgh with Gaddum and then returned to a lectureship at the School of Pharmacy in 1948.

In 1950, he moved to a senior appointment in Dundee in the department of clinical pharmacology at what was then the University of St Andrews. In Dundee West forged a collaboration with J. F. Riley and in late 1952 they reported that tissue mast cells were the main storage site of histamine, which is responsible for many of the immediate symptoms of allergy and inflammation. This finding was of monumental importance and provoked the most intensive worldwide research into the biology of the mast cell. This activity ultimately led to completely novel approaches to the treatment of allergic disease. Between 1952 and 1955 more than 20 papers were published in learned scientific journals and Geoffrey West was awarded the DSc by the University of London in 1954.

He returned again to the School of Pharmacy in 1955, now as a reader in pharmacology, and began work on the mechanisms involved in oedema formation in rats following injection of the sugar polymer dextran. This effect resembles the condition of angioneurotic oedema in the human being, an often life-threatening response which may accompany severe allergic reactions. In the course of this work, West identified and propagated a colony of rats that were resistant to the effects of dextran. Together with H. Kalmus, he showed that this hereditary trait was a clear example of the genetic control of mast cell reactivity. Importantly, the animals were also resistant to other forms of traumatic shock and the colony provided the basis for further studies, spanning 20 years in all, which covered the relationship between histamine formation, the growth of tumours, the pregnancy state, the blood sugar level and seasonal variations in response to drugs and chemicals.

In 1964 West was awarded the annual biology prize of the New York Academy of Sciences. In 1965 he was appointed scientific secretary to the British Industrial Biological Research Association (BIBRA). There he applied his talents to essential problems of toxicolgy. He returned to academic life in 1970 as reader in pharmacology at the North East London Polytechnic. He continued his work there on the cellular mechanisms involved in allergy and inflammation and methods for their inhibition, until his formal retirement in 1982.

West was co-editor of the series *Progress in Medicinal Chemistry* and *Pseudo-Allergic Reactions* and for 25 years was one of the editors-in-chief of the *International Archives of Allergy and Applied Immunology*. For 10 years from 1974 he was secretary-general of the European Histamine Research Society. The scientific career of Geoffrey West is summarized in his autobiographical account *A Handful of Luck*. The title of the book is typically modest. All was not based on luck but on radical insight and scientific excellence.

Geoffrey West had many interests outside the world of science, most of them involving an active participation in his local Surrey community. When in 1967 an appeal was launched to rebuild what later became the Thorndike Theatre in Leatherhead, he joined and subsequently became chairman of a group of supporters most of whom have remained together ever since. During his time in Dundee he acquired an enthusiasm for Scottish dancing which continued until the end of his life. He was past president of the Epsom Caledonian Association.

His wife, Jean, and their son and daughter survive him.

BETTY WARREN

Betty Warren, actress, died on December 15 aged 83. She was born on October 31, 1907.

A VERSATILE performer, as character actress, mimic, singer and variety artiste, Betty Warren was a great favourite in theatres throughout Britain in the 1920s and 1930s. A redoubtable trouper of the music halls from an early age she entertained British soldiers in both world wars and had a career in films as well as on stage in London and the provinces.

She was born Babette Hilda O'Hogan in Fareham, Hampshire, and went to school in Southsea. She began appearing on stage as a child, singing for soldiers in hospital at Portsmouth during the first world war. After the war she performed at the piano with her sister at the King's Theatre, Southsea, and with her homely, pleasant features she became widely known on the variety circuit. She earned the nickname "The Impressionable Girl", a reference to her ability to impersonate other stage performers of her time.

Between the wars she was seen at most of the main variety theatres in London and the provinces. Among her many West End appearances were *The London Revue* at the Lyceum (1925) and *Balalaika* at His Majesty's Theatre in 1937.

The beginning of the second world war saw her entertaining the troops again, this time, as one of the earliest members of Ensa, singing and dancing for the British Expeditionary Force in France. After Dunkirk she was back in the West End in the short-lived *Fig Leaves* (1940) and in other shows such as *Present Arms* at the Prince of Wales (1940) and *Waltz Without End* at the Cambridge (1942). She also spent two years touring *The Golden Fleece* and *Three's a Family*. With six other actresses she took part in what were known as "girl friends of the forces" broadcasts to Empire soldiers serving overseas. Her broadcast was to Australians in the Middle East.

Her career continued after the war well into the 1950s. She was on stage with with Noël Coward and Margaret Leighton in the Coronation production of Bernard Shaw's *The Apple Cart*, and with Kenneth Williams in Sandy Wilson's *The Buccaneer* (1956). In 1957 she appeared with Donald Pleasence as Mai Zetterling's mother in Jean Anouilh's *The Restless Heart*.

In films she is remembered for her performance as Bessie Bellwood in *Champagne Charlie* (1944) in which she sang the ditty "Come on Algernon". She also appeared with Stanley Holloway in the Ealing comedy *Passport to Pimlico* in 1949.

She was twice married, to Lawrence Wright, the theatrical composer, and to Lloyd Shakespeare, a musician. She is survived by her daughter, Lorette.

CLARENCE JOHNSON

Clarence Johnson, American aircraft designer, has died in Burbank, California, aged 80. He was born on February 27, 1910.

CLARENCE "Kelly" Johnson was the creator of more than 40 civilian and military planes, ranging from the P-38 Lightning of the second world war to the U-2 and SR-71 spy planes. He was the creator of Lockheed's top secret research facility known as the "Skunk Works" which he launched in 1943. He designed the first jet fighter to go into production in the United States, the XP-80, prototype of the F-80 Shooting Star, which was produced from the drawing board in 143 days.

Among other aircraft he helped design were the Constellation transport, the Hercules cargo plane, the P-2V Neptune anti-submarine patrol aircraft, the Agena spacecraft and the F-104 Starfighter, the fastest fighter plane of its day, capable of twice the speed of sound.

The U-2 was the first aircraft able to make a sustained flight above 60,000 feet and played an important role in high altitude reconnaissance in the cold war period. That it was not invulnerable to the Soviet Union's air defences was demonstrated when one was brought down in May 1960 and its pilot, Gary Powers, made a prisoner. Its successor, the SR-71 Blackbird, remains one of the fastest and highest flying planes in the world and can sustain speeds of over 2,000mph above 85,000 feet.

Johnson started as a tool designer at Lockheed's Burbank plant in 1933 and retired in 1975 as a senior vice president. He remained a senior adviser to Lockheed until his death. He received the Medal of Freedom, America's highest civil decoration, from President Johnson in 1964.

He is survived by his third wife, Nancy.

Astronomy

The sky at night in January: Time of eclipse

By Michael J. Hendrie
Astronomy Correspondent

MERCURY is a morning star throughout January reaching greatest western elongation (24 deg) on the 14th. During the first half of the month it rises nearly an hour and a half before the Sun, increasing in brightness from +0.4 to -0.2 magnitude.

This month is a favourable time to see Mercury in the dawn sky and is well worth looking for as dawn comes late when many are up and about. The bright orange-red star Antares in Scorpius will be higher in the sky than Mercury and to the right or south and moves farther round towards the south during the month. On the morning of the 13th the thin crescent Moon will lie to the south-east. Mercury will be at its easiest to see about this date. The Moon will be close to Antares on the 12th.

Venus will be an evening star until early August and in April and May will set later than 23h, or four hours after the Sun, when it will be a brilliant object in the north-western sky. Starting the year low in the south-west after sunset it begins to draw away from the Sun during the month. Its easterly motion along the ecliptic also carries it northwards by as much as 10 degrees by the 31st when it will be setting nearly two hours after the Sun.

Venus passes only a degree from Saturn on the 1st when it might be possible to identify Saturn in binoculars. The crescent Moon will be above Venus on the evening of the 17th.

Mars reaches a stationary point in Taurus on the 1st when its westward motion reverses and the planet begins to move eastwards among the stars again. This eastwards motion will keep it ahead of the Sun until conjunction in November. During January it fades *from -1.0 to 0.0 magnitude*. The Moon will be near by on the 25th.

Jupiter is in Cancer and at opposition on the 29th when it *will be due south at midnight*. Now that Mars has declined in brightness, Jupiter at -2.6 magnitude is much the brightest planet visible in the late evening and second half of the night. The Moon passes 2 degrees to the south of Jupiter on the 2nd and again on the 30th.

Saturn is in conjunction with the Sun on the 18th, passing beyond the Sun at a distance of some 1,600 million km (1,000 million miles). It will appear too close to the Sun to be visible this month.

Uranus is at conjunction on 31st December and will not be observable. It will be 3,100 *million km (1,900 million* miles) from the Earth in January.

Neptune is in conjunction with the Sun on the 5th and will not be observable. It will be 4,700 million km (2,900 million miles) from the Earth.

The Moon : last quarter, 7d 19h : new Moon, 16d 00h; first quarter, 23d 14h; full Moon, 30d 06h.

The Earth is at perihelion, its closest to the Sun, on the 3rd when the distance from the Sun will be 147 million *kilometres (91.3 million* miles).

Sunset on the 1st is at 16h 00m and on the 31st at 16h 45m while sunrise is at 08h 08m and 7h 40m on the same dates. Astronomical Twilight ends at 18h 05m and 18h 45m early and late in the month and begins at 06h 00m and 05h 45m.

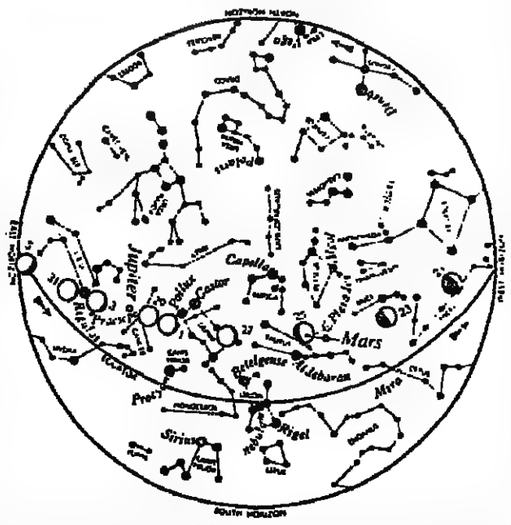
Algol, the variable star in Perseus, can be seen when faintest about the following times this January: 2d 21h, 20d 01h, 22d 22h and 25d 19h.

There will be a penumbral eclipse of the Moon on 30d 06h visible from Western Europe, including the British Isles, Africa and the Americas. During a penumbral eclipse the Moon does not enter the darker part of the Earth's shadow (the umbra) and so may be only slightly darkened even at mid-eclipse and it may not be obvious to the casual observer. It is not possible to predict with any certainty how dark any lunar eclipse will be.

There will be an annular eclipse of the Sun on the 15th/16th visible from extreme south-western Australia, Tasmania, central parts of New Zealand and the central Pacific Ocean. A partial solar eclipse will be seen outside this immediate area over Australasia, the Pacific and parts of Antarctica.

An eclipse is said to be annular when the Moon appears too small to completely cover the Sun as it does at a total eclipse. This leaves a ring or annulus of the Sun's surface still visible at mid-eclipse. Both total and annular eclipses arise because the Moon's size appears to vary as its distance from the Earth changes during each month, and the apparent size of the Sun varies to a smaller extent as the Earth's distance from the Sun changes during the year. In January the Sun appears large because the Earth is closer to the Sun while it happens that the Moon is farthest from the Earth on the 12th, only three days before the eclipse.

During the first half of 1991 it will be interesting to follow the motion of Venus, Mars and Jupiter. Now spread right across the early evening sky from south-west to north-east, they will all come together in a tight grouping in the north-western sky during June.



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23h (11 pm) at the beginning, 22h (10 pm) in the middle, and 21h (9 pm) at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich times at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place be east. The map should be turned so that the horizon the observer is facing (shown by the words around the circle) is at the bottom, the zenith being at the centre. Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation, is used in the accompanying notes

Forthcoming marriages

Lieutenant I.M. Hallam and Miss A.K.V. Cornwell
Mr and Mrs A.R. Cornwell-Menzies, of Blackwater, Hampshire, are happy to announce the engagement of their younger daughter Anna to Iain, son of Major and Mrs J. Hallam, of Cleveleys, Lancashire.

Major M.A. Hill, RA and Miss F.J. Hart
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs David M. Hill, of Headley Down, Hampshire, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen R. Hart, of Checkendon, Oxfordshire.

Dr I.D. Smith and Miss J.A. Farguson
The engagement is announced between Douglas, son of Mr and Mrs G.D.H. Smith, of Irthington, Cumbria, and Julie, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.J. Farguson, of Tottenham, London.

Appointments

Latest appointments include:
Dr John Mack to be Keeper of Ethnography at the British Museum, in succession to Mr Malcolm McLeod. Dr Mack, who joined the department in 1976, will take up his appointment on January 2.

Archaeology

Wheeler's concept of the great Indus empire is challenged

By NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

UNDERSTANDING of South Asia's first civilisation has been drastically changed by the discovery of lost cities in the Indus basin. What had been seen as a great empire with twin capitals 360 miles apart now seems more likely to have been a mosaic of regional states, more like early civilisations elsewhere.

The cities of Harappa and Mohenjodaro were first noted by archaeologists early this century in what is now Pakistan, and the striking parallels between them in layout and material culture recorded. Excavations by Sir John Marshall between the wars were followed by a campaign directed by Sir Mortimer Wheeler, when he was the last Director General of Archaeology in undivided India in the 1940s.

Wheeler promoted the model of an "Indus Civilisation", with Mohenjodaro as the southern and Harappa the northern capital, flourishing between about 2500 and 1700 BC and in contact with the civilisations of Mesopotamia and Iran. The area of the Indus culture was the largest of any ancient polity, but the lack of monumental sculpture and inscriptions gave the society an oddly anonymous quality: not only were its rulers unidentified, but there were no palaces or statues to indicate that they had ever reigned.

Over the past 30 years the chronology and economy of the Indus cities has become better understood, and although the only writing, on stone seals, remains undeciphered it seems likely to identify individuals and to be in a Dravidian script. In spite of the discovery and excavation of a third city, at Kalibangan in India, in the 1960s, the political model of the twin-centred empire has remained widely accepted.

That view has now been challenged by Dr Rafique Mughal, director of archaeology for northern Pakistan, who points out that at least three other large cities once existed, and that they are rather regularly spaced through the Indus basin. One of them, Ganweriwala on the now dry Hakra River in Cholistan, is larger than Harappa's estimated 76 hectares (190 acres), and at 81.5 ha (204 acres) only slightly smaller than Mohenjodaro.

Ganweriwala is midway between the two well known cities, while Rakhigarhi lies an equal distance east of Harappa in the Haryana state of India, and also lies on what was once the Hakra drainage. Like the other cities, it has two mounds, together covering 80 hectares (200 acres). Limited excavations have shown that the smaller mound has some three metres of deposits, including pottery dating back to the beginning of the Indus culture.

These two important sites, together with Kalibangan downstream from Rakhigarhi, show that the upper Indus plain was studded with substantial communities each large enough to be a capital. Dr Mughal's earlier surveys in the Ghaggar valley, a branch of the same dry river system, located numerous smaller sites indicating a once flourishing region that died as the water supply vanished.

In the southern area of the Indus basin, Dr Mughal notes, the city of Kotada lies on an island in the Great Rann of Kutch, close to the Pakistan border. "Kotada is a strongly fortified city spreading over a total area of more than 40 hectares [100 acres]. It consists of an inner acropolis or citadel, integral with a 'middle town' and surrounded by double ramparts lined with stone," he says. "Access to the acropolis and middle town is through gateways with flights of stone steps. Outside, the lower town occupies areas on three sides of the citadel: the remains still show 'chessboard' planning of stone-built houses and streets, all enclosed by another fortification wall which also has gateways and bastions."

Kotada lies where water routes from Sind, Rajastan and Kutch meet, and evidence that the ancient sea level was higher than at present suggests that the Rann was then navigable. Several other Indus culture towns along the Arabia Sea coast are known to have been similarly stranded.

The Kotada site seems to date to the peak phase of the Indus civilisation, and has yielded short texts in the undeciphered script. While it is only half the size of the largest cities, it is of classic Indus form and lies well within the known geographical limits of the culture, which extend down to the Narbada and Tapti Rivers on the west coast of peninsular India.

Dr Mughal points out that the mean distance between the major Indus cities is about 290 kilometres (180 miles), although Kotada is over 500 km from Ganweriwala and Mohenjodaro and another important city might therefore remain to be discovered in eastern Sind. "Such a pattern of cities calls for explanations more convincing than the hypotheses of trade networks, centres of production and redistribution, or the capture of economic resources," Dr Mughal says.

"Likewise, the major cities cannot be regarded as administrative 'capitals' of the Indus 'Empire'. The fortified towns along the coast certainly had different functions from the cities in the plains of Punjab and Sind."

The picture now emerging, Dr Mughal says, renders the traditional notion of the twin capitals of a unitary empire untenable.

Source: *Journal of Central Asia 13*: 155-162.

Sir Mortimer Wheeler: promoter of the Indus Civilisation.

ON THIS DAY 1932

DEC 27

The first royal Christmas broadcast. At the time there were about five million wireless licences, but tens of millions heard the king and were moved by his homely address delivered in a warm, strong and resonant voice.

THE KING TO HIS PEOPLE

The most notable event of Christmastide took place on Christmas Day at 3.5 p.m., when his Majesty the King broadcast from Sandringham a message of greeting to his subjects in all parts of the Empire:-

The King said:-

Through one of the marvels of modern science, I am enabled this Christmas Day to speak to all my peoples throughout the Empire. I take it as a good omen that wireless should have reached its present perfection at a time when the Empire has been linked in closer union, for it offers us immense possibilities to make that union closer still.

It may be that our future will lay upon us more than one stern test. Our past will have taught us how to meet it unshaken. For the present the work to which we are all equally bound is to arrive at a reasoned tranquility within our borders, to regain prosperity without self-seeking, and to carry with us those whom the burden of past years has disheartened or overborne.

My life's aim has been to serve as I might towards those ends. Your loyalty, your confidence in me, has been my abundant reward. I speak now from my home and from my heart to you all; to men and women so cut off by the snows, the desert, or the sea that only voices out of the air can reach them; to those cut off from fuller life by blindness, sickness, or infirmity, and to those who are celebrating this day with their children and their grandchildren — to all, to each, I wish a happy Christmas. God bless you.

The King spoke from a small room on the ground floor of Sandringham House and members of the Royal Family at Sandringham for Christmas heard the message on a receiving set in another room. Prince George was prevented by his feverish cold from joining the Sandringham Christmas party. He heard his father's broadcast while in his sick room at York House, St. James's Palace.

At Sandringham the B.B.C. engineers had installed special apparatus. Through the Sandringham House telephone exchange the microphones in his Majesty's room were connected with land lines allocated to carry the speech to Broadcasting House in London. Thence, after appropriate amplification, the signals were distributed through the network of B.B.C. lines to all the transmitting stations throughout the country as well as to the two new short-wave Empire transmitters at Daventry.

In the Control Room at the International Telephone Exchange in Carter Lane picked operators dealt with the various messages as if they were engaged on their normal daily duties. A time signal was sent to all points at 1.45 p.m., and a synchronized clock and stop watches thereafter indicated the passage of time to the exact second.

The King's message was received on the trunk exchange above, and was then passed to a "test bay" in the control room. Thence it was sent on to the operators a few yards away, seated in front of delicate instruments which, by means of a needle, showed automatically whether the volume of sound passing over was too strong or of not sufficient power.

The Dramatic Control Panel at Broadcasting House was used for the production of the whole programme, the various telephone circuits being connected up to it just as a number of studios are connected to it for a broadcast of a radio play. The whole of the programme was recorded by Blattnerphone.

But whoever obeys God's word is the one whose love for God has been made perfect. This is how we can be sure that we are in union with God.
1 John 2 : 5 GNB

BIRTHS

CHOLEWA - On December 17th to Marese (née Carter) and Henryk, (twin daughters Lauren and Joanna.

CRITCHLEY - On December 24th to Elisabeth (nee Storey) and Bruce, a son, Fergus Ranald and a daughter Lucilla.

EDWARDS - On December 15th, 1990, to Avril (née Comery) and James, a son, Augustus John Mckie.

MONROE - On December 16th to Jo (née Roech) and Jeremy, a son, Rupert Rogers, a brother for Lucy and Georgie.

PAYNE-HUMPHRIES - On December 21 1990 at St Josefa, Germany, to Celia and Kim, a daughter, Abigail Louise.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

MAYBERRY/WAPLE - On December 27th 1940 at Sigglesthorne, East Riding, Derry to Lesley. And they said it wouldn't last!

DEATHS

ACHMEAD - On December 22nd, peacefully, Edmund Alcmbead T.D., former editor of The Times Crossword, in his 78th year, beloved husband of Angela, father of Clare and Robert and grandfather to his six grandchildren. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving on Friday, January 4th, 1991 at 2.30pm at St. Andrew's Church, South Newton, Nr Salisbury, Wilts - all welcome.

BARRETT - On December 23rd after a courageous fight, Michael McStephen. Loving husband of Charmaine and father of Clare, Paul and Moya. Beloved by all his family. Funeral service at St Michael's Church, Camberley, on December 31st at 1.30, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Barnardos.

CLARK - On December 23rd 1990 peacefully at home, Wilfred Harry (Bill), loved husband of Lucienne and father of John. The funeral will be held at the Church of St Laurence, Lurgashall, near Petworth, West Sussex, at 12 noon on Friday, December 28. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired will be welcomed by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution of West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ.

COUVREUR - On December 25th, peacefully at home, Louis Couvreur, beloved husband of Diane (nee Nevill) and father of George, Elizabeth, Mark and Dan. Funeral service on Friday 28th December at 11.30am in Brussels. Family flowers only.

EARL - on December 25th, suddenly, Julian. Much loved husband of Phyllis, father of Cordelia, Sebastian and Austin. Son of Honor and the late Sebastian. Brother of Stephen. The memorial concert to be announced later. In place of flowers, please send donations to the Musicians Benevolent Fund, 16 Ogle Street, London, W1P 7LG.

FOX - On December 22nd, peacefully at St. Gemma's Hospice, Leeds, after a long illness, aged 62 years, Jane (née Glanville), formerly of London and Scottish/Northern Employers Companies. Loving wife of the late Freddie Fox (City Inspector - Northern Employers/ Commercial Union). No flowers please, by request, but donations if desired to British Heart Foundation, 4/6, Bridge Street, Tadcaster, LS24 9AL, or Leicester Lions Club, c/o Mr H. Doyle, 30, Southern Hay Road, Leicester, or R.N.L.I., West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ. Funeral Service at Lawrewood Crematorium, Leeds, on Monday, December 31st, at 1.00 pm. At peace. Ann, John, Richard and David.

FORBYTZ - On December 22nd, peacefully at Moorhouse Nursing Home, Hindhead, Violet Ethel Mary in her 90th year. Much loved mother of John and Sheila and grandmother of Robert, Andrew, James and Dominic. Funeral will take place on Thursday January 3rd 1991 at St. Anselm's Church, Beacon Hill at 11.30am followed by private interment.

HARRIS - On December 21st at Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil, Tegwyn Bowen, former headmaster of Vaynor Penderyn School. Funeral service at Llwydcoed crematorium, Aberdare, 2.30pm Friday December 28th. Family flowers only.

HIRM - On December 24th, peacefully after much pain bravely borne, Eric, darling husband of Myrl. Family cremation.

HEWETSON - On December 20th, 1990, Dr. John Christopher of Wormley. Funeral 1.30 pm, Friday, December 28th, at Guildford Crematorium. The family would like to thank all friends who have given love and support over the past years.

GREENWOOD - On Saturday December 22 1990, Brigadier H Rodney de B Greenwood, Royal Engineers (rtd). Widower of Joan Bonnycastle and Meg Braid, dearly loved father of Deborah and Drusilla, beloved "grampy" of Amy, Stephen, Nicky, Armand and Robert and also to many others. Service at Guildford Crematorium, Friday, December 28 at 11am. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the Treasurer, British Legion, Headley and District branch, Marbery Hall, Headley Hill Road, Headley, Bordon, Hants.

GODFREE - Suddenly on December 17th at home, Dennis Arthur, much loved husband of Phyllis, father of David and stepfather of Tina. Grateful for floral tributes and to those who attended cremation on 21st December.

JACOBS - On December 26th peacefully, Robert Louis, aged 86, formally of Asmuns Hill. Funeral December 28th at Golders Green Crematorium at 3.40 pm.

MACDONALD - On December 25th 1990, Agnes Christian, wife of the late Dr J Y Macdonald. Funeral service at All Saints Church, St Andrews, Friday January 4th 1991 at 11.45am.

McCARTER - On December 24th, at home, The Reverend Colin Heyes. Beloved husband of the late Esther. Dearly loved by Alison, Hilary and Kirsty. Funeral service at St. Peter's Church, Windrush on December 28th at 12.30. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired to Save The Children, may be left at the church or forwarded to Norman, Trotman & Hughes, F/D, North Leach. (0451) 60288.

MILLER - On December 23rd, 1990, peacefully among friends, at Grace House, Farnham, Muriel Blanche Miller O.B.E., in her 93rd year. Wife of the late Capt. E. A. Miller, and mother of Angela. Funeral Service at St. Andrew's Church, Farnham, on Thursday, January 3rd at 2.00 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired, may be made to Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, c/o Thorne-Leggett Funeral Director, 1, Brentburst, Petersfield Road, Whitehill, Bordon, GU35 9AR.

PAXTON - On December 21st, suddenly but peacefully in hospital, Grace, much loved mother of Peter, John and Tricia. Funeral service at the Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, on Friday January 4th at 11am.

PICKERING - On December 22nd, in the Bristol Royal Infirmary, Mrs Gwendolen Enid Marie Pickering, aged 68 years, of Moorhampton, Herefordshire. Formerly Roxborough Ave, Harrow. The funeral service at South West Middlesex Crematorium, Hounslow Road, Hanworth, on Monday, December 31st, at 2.45 pm. Enquires to Lodge Bros., Tel: (0932) 785 402.

REEVES - On December 24th, 1990, peacefully, at St Vincent's Hospital, Kingussie, Enid Knight Nelson, aged 83 years, after a long illness fought with great bravery, of West Park, Newtonmore. Beloved mother of Duncan and adored grandmother of Nichola and Rupert. Funeral service in St. Columba's Church, Kingussie, on Monday, December 31st at 11.15 am, cremation thereafter at Perth Crematorium, at 1.45 pm. All friends respectfully invited.

RENDALL - On December 21st suddenly at home, Holden, devoted husband of Ruth, dearly loved father and grandfather. Private cremation December 31st. Family flowers only please. Donations if wished to Arne Church Roof Fund c/o Albert Marsh Ltd, St Michael's Rd, Wareham (tel 552107). Service of Thanksgiving at 2.30pm Saturday January 5th 1991 at Lady St Mary Church, Wareham.

SANDERS - On December 22nd, peacefully to Florence Nightingale Hessier, Stoke Mandeville, William (Bill) of Prestwood. Funeral Service to be held at the Church of St. Peter & St. Paul, Great Missenden, on Monday, December 31st at 1.30 pm, followed by cremation. Family flowers only, donations if wished to the Florence Nightingale Hospice, c/o H.J. & A. Wright Ltd, 105, High Street, Great Missenden, Bucks, HP16 0BE. Tel: 02406 3101.

SHERRARD - On 22nd December 1990, peacefully at Arcona House, Ida Rosamond Sherrard of Freshford, formerly of Kersbrook Cottage, Lime Regis, widow of Aubrey, beloved and loving mother grandmother and great grandmother, service on Saturday the 29th of December at 12.45pm at St Marys, Limpley Stoke. Followed by cremation at Haycombe Bath, at 1.30pm. Flowers to C.S Bowyer Ltd, 5 Church St, Bradford on Avon, Wilts.

SHUTTLEWORTH - See Bendall.

STURROCK - On December 21st, 1990, suddenly, Douglas Sturrock of Sandwich, a devoted father, son and beloved husband of Sammy. Funeral Service at the Church of St. Clement, Sandwich on Monday, December 31st at 1.00 pm, followed by private committal at Barham Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation c/o J. Dilnot Smith & Son, Funeral Directors, Beacon Lane, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.

WADE - On December 23rd, in Amersham, peacefully and in no pain, May (formerly Appleby), widow of William Ferguson Wade, mother of Elaine Furse, Pauline Scudamore and Angela. Grandmother of Nick, Simon, Matthew, David and Louise, great grandmother of Marlyn and William. Mourned and beloved by us all.

WEINKOPF - On December 24th, peacefully at the Holles Nursing Home, Brighton, Annie Beatrice (Nancy). Funeral Friday December 28th, 4.30pm at Downs Crematorium, Bear Road, Brighton. No flowers please.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

GIBB - A Memorial service for Margot Gibb will be held at the Sacred Heart Church, Hornsferry Rd, London, SW1 on Wednesday January 23rd 1991 at 12 noon.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

SMALLWOOD - Charles Antony Russell. With fond memories and love on this the third anniversary of his death. Love Annette, Sarah, Natasha and all his family.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BARKING POWER LIMITED
NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT A GAS FIRED COMBINED CYCLE POWER STATION AT BARKING REACH IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING AND DAGENHAM.

Notice is hereby given that Barking Power Limited ("the Company") has applied under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 ("the Act") for the consent of the Secretary of State for Energy to construct a gas fired combined cycle power station at Barking Reach in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, and for a Direction under paragraph 7 of Schedule 8 to the Act that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

The new station to be known as Barking Reach Power Station would have nominal capacity of 1000 megawatts (MW) consisting of 8 gas turbine generators and 8 steam turbine generators.

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, together with a copy of the Environmental Statement containing the Company's proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, are available for inspection during normal office hours at the following addresses: London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Development and Technical Services Department, Town Hall, Barking, Essex, IG11 7LU; London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Public Library, Barking, Essex, IG11 7LU and Thames Power Limited, Devonshire House, Mayfair Place, London, W1X 6PH.

In addition, copies of the Environmental Statement may be obtained at a cost of £250 by writing to Ashdown Environmental Limited, 5 Old Barns, Rycote Lane Farm, Milton Common, Oxfordshire, OX9 2NZ while stocks last.

Any objection should be made in writing to the Secretary of State for Energy, Electricity Division "A", Room 2.L.3., 1 Palace Street, Victoria, London, SW1A 5HE, stating the name of the station and the grounds of objection, not later than 31st January 1991.

NABARRO NATHANSON
on behalf of
Barking Power Limited

NOTICE of resolution for payment of capital
BLUE ANCHOR LEISURE LIMITED

NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 that:

1. the above named Company ("the Company") has approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by purchase;
2. the amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £150,000.00;
3. the date for the resolution for payment out of capital is the 21st day of December 1990;
4. the statutory declaration and auditors' report required by section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 are available for inspection at the Company's registered office; and
5. any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of the resolution for payment out of capital apply to the Court under section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 for an order prohibiting the payment.

Dated 21st December 1990
Peter Raymond Francis Haines
Company Secretary

Christmas & New Year Deadlines

The Times	Copy deadline
28 Dec	27 Dec (midday)
29 Dec	28 Dec (midday)
31 Dec	28 Dec (midday)
1 Jan	31 Dec (midday)
2 Jan	31 Dec (midday)

The Times will be publishing on New Year's Day

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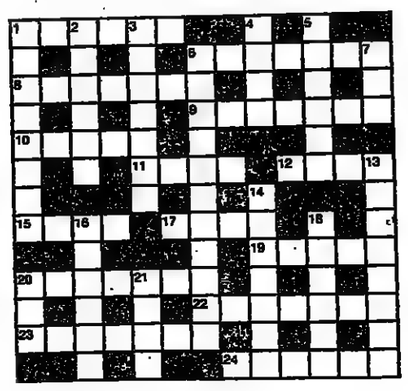


ACROSS
1 Habituate (6)
6 Astonish (7)
8 Make use of (7)
9 Damn (7)
10 Works (5)
11 Gaelic (4)
12 Untidy state (4)
15 Jaunt (4)
17 Tiny particle (4)
19 Pre-pupa stage (5)
20 Jet stream bath (7)
22 Brighten up (7)
23 Compass stispender (7)
24 Screened (6)

DOWN
1 Relief artist (8)
2 Brute (6)
3 Left out (7)
4 Author unknown (4)
5 Sheep's coat (6)
6 Essentials (11)
7 Nearest star (3)
13 Unrelaxed (8)
14 Samson's mistress (7)
16 Abscond (6)
18 Defied (6)
20 Exercise trot (3)
21 Ardour (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 2366
ACROSS: 2 Bang 4 Clip 7 Samoa 9 Autoclave 10 Item 11 Throb 12 Kudzu 13 Baker 15 Widen 17 Riled 18 Proud 20 Ogle 21 Knock down 23 Crass 24 Tote 25 Solo
DOWN: 1 Embedded 1 Baa 3 Nature 5 Loan 6 Preparedness 7 Sticky wicket 8 Scabbard 11 Turnpike 14 Kilogram 16 Rococo 19 Port 22 NCO

MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Schizophrenia and stress

Despite reports to the contrary Sophia Sutcliffe is as likely to have been the victim of inherent weaknesses in her own psyche as of her husband's behaviour, her alleged hounding by the press, or the tensions of the recent libel case. These incidents probably only provoked a response which was already predictable.

There was evidence during Mrs Sutcliffe's long engagement to her husband that she was psychiatrically fragile. Its strain resulted in a "nervous breakdown" which was diagnosed as being due to schizophrenia. Schizophrenic persons are often attracted to each other; her husband is now in Broadmoor suffering from this disease.

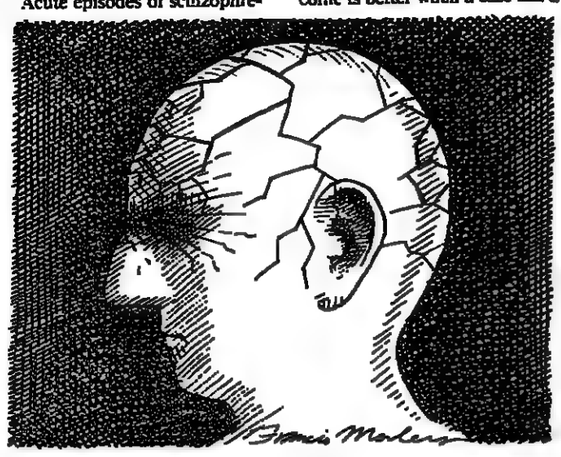
Acute episodes of schizophrenia can be provoked by emotional landmarks in a patient's life, such as marriage, pregnancy, loss of job or bereavement, and also by illnesses. Relapses can be induced by similar episodes if the tension becomes too great. Few things could be more trying for a patient with a history of schizophrenia than having to live through the trial and imprisonment of a spouse.

Although detailed statistics differ, most authorities agree that between a third and a quarter of schizophrenic patients make an apparent recovery from an acute episode; in the others, the recovery is limited, and with it their ability to face the changes and chances of this fleeting world. All agree that the outcome is better when a case has a sudden onset, or when it is a reaction to a definite event, or if there is a good response to treatment.

Relapse is less likely if the patient has some insight, and can be persuaded to take long-term anti-psychotic drugs, and to reorganise his or her life to minimise stress — institutional life is ideal. Many of the traditional eccentric Oxbridge dons beloved by Victorians and Edwardians seem to have had obvious schizoid personalities, with difficulties in relationships, excessive sensitivity and obsessive beliefs.

Patients who do not make a complete recovery tend to be apathetic and withdrawn. In lay terms they are often described as "very private people". It matters little if they keep themselves to themselves, wear odd clothing, neglect their appearance, or even if their time-keeping becomes chaotic as they change night into day, but they can be more difficult to tolerate if they become obsessed by extreme political views and causes, or if they develop delusions of grandeur or persecution.

Mrs Sutcliffe on her own admission is emotionally destroyed; she has displayed an obvious obsession with litigation, sometimes a manifestation of a persecutional delusion. Her failure to show any response to the jury's verdict was at best unexpected, or emotionally inappropriate. She should be encouraged to retreat, hidden by her dark spectacles, to the private life for which she hankers.



Calming those gut feelings

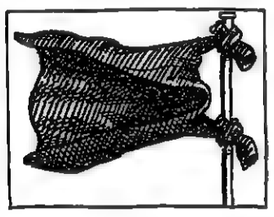
While it is rare not to survive days of mince pies, turkey and Christmas pudding, even when coupled with the strong drinks sometimes needed to dissolve family feuds, there are casualties. The ulcer which had been quiescent for years starts to play up, the hiatus hernia with its accompanying oesophagitis makes its presence known by waves of heartburn. Indigestion in all its forms is rife during the season of goodwill, but above all overeating causes symptoms of oesophageal reflux; pain and heartburn which have resulted from the acid stomach contents tipping over on to the lining of the oesophagus (the gullet), a surface which was never designed to withstand acidity. This season of dyspepsia is an appropriate time for Reckitt & Colman to announce that it has improved the formula of Gaviscon, perhaps the best-known reflux suppressant.

Gaviscon, in common with other reflux suppressants, contains alginic acid, combined with aluminium hydroxide, magnesium trisilicate and sodium bicarbonate. The mixture forms an acid raft which floats around on the surface of the gastric contents, thereby bathing the inflamed walls of the stomach and oesophagus. The sodium bicarbonate produces bubbles, which increase the buoyancy of the raft. Reckitt & Colman claims that the Gaviscon raft is more than four times stronger than the raft produced by standard BPC preparations, so strong that it not only acts as a balm for the inflamed surface, but prevents the gastric contents escaping into the oesophagus.

Smith, Kline and French also manufactures a novel alginic acid reflux suppressant; the preparation, Algitec, combines alginic acid with its well-tried H_2 blocker, Tagemet, thereby reducing acid secretion as well as providing an antacid balm for the inflamed surfaces.

Chill warning

The first cold snap of the winter has been followed by the inevitable lengthening of the obituary columns in the newspapers. Exposure to cold does not always strike at once; the number of heart attacks (coronary thromboses) peaks 24 hours after exposure to chilling, and of strokes, three days later. Work at the Royal London hospital has shown that exposure to cold for a short time can often be tolerated; 20 minutes, time enough usually to wait for a bus, seems to be about the safe limit of tolerance.



Professor William Keetinge, a London University expert on climate and disease, warns in the magazine *Medical Monitor* that rather than dramatic treatment such as adrenalin injections and cardiac massage, the patient with hypothermia needs immediate covering with blankets or greatcoats, and movement to a warm environment as soon as possible.

Relax and watch your troubles float away

JULIAN HOBBERT

Dancing their cares away: Lydia Wong and Anthony Kennedy believe they can eliminate stress through a type of exercise called qi-netics

Time to unwind: but first, choose your "relaxation strategy". Victoria McKee reports on the business of unbending

For the next week or so you will be bombarded more heavily than usual with diet and exercise advice. You will be told how to lose 7lb in five days, squeeze into that slinky New Year's Eve ensemble, and radically reshape yourself and your life. You might be better off to relax and reach for another mince pie.

"Expectation and frustration are inextricably linked, and it could be better just to accept that this is the season of excess," says Dr Desmond Kelly, the medical director of the Priory hospital in south London, and president of the International Stress Management Association.

"With so much hype over Christmas and then over diet and exercise and new year's resolutions it is easy to try to do too much too soon — and then feel terribly let down," Dr Kelly says. "Some people produce endorphins when they exercise which make them feel good, but for others, who feel bad when they exercise, it is a waste of time."

Both types, he suggests, would be better sorting out "relaxation strategies which can be woven into their lifestyle" than putting their new tracksuit through its paces before the pudding has been digested. And some experts believe that simply by learning to relax, whatever else you desire — be it weight loss or a psychological re-shaping — will follow.

Yet there are almost as many confusing "relaxation strategies" as there are diets and exercise programmes, and the relaxation business is in danger of becoming as stressfully competitive as any other. You could float in a flotation tank, take up juggling and learn several different types of meditation and visualisation, just for starters. And there are innumerable audio and video cassettes by self-styled specialists in what is a growing, and lucrative, field.

Dr Malcolm Carruthers, who works at the Maudesley hospital and has private clinics in Harley Street, teaches autogenic training, "a westernised version of Siddha meditation". Naturally, he recommends that method. "It's a very practical skill, like learning to drive a car, and if you try to teach people by a book or a tape they're likely to drive into a brick wall," says Dr Carruthers (whose courses cost around £180, including a medical screening). "But you could always try a very basic technique included in autogenic training, which is to sit comfortably in an armchair, resting your arms either on your lap or the arms of the chair, feet flat on the floor and eyes closed, and just watch your breathing. Don't try to control or change it, just watch it in an uncritical way for five or ten minutes without disturbance."

'It could be better just to accept that this is the season of excess'

Anthony Baird, the director of the Institute for Complementary Medicine (ICM), recommends a similar, simple routine. "I do it every morning before catching my train. I sit in a chair, very straight, and count down from 20 to zero and imagine I'm sinking down into a huge bottle. I let my thoughts float for a few moments. And when I'm ready I come back up feeling hugely refreshed and ready to cope."

Almost every form of "alternative" therapy places a high emphasis on relaxation. "For short-term relaxation we'd probably suggest aromatherapy, massage, meditation and reflexology," Mr Baird says. "For the longer term these would need to be combined with some sort of counselling."

One aromatherapist on the ICM's list of practitioners is Trish Hooker, a former personnel manager who turned to aromatherapy because of the stress of her job, and who has worked with it in a London hospice.

She believes that aromatherapy can not only cleanse the system of toxic wastes from overeating and drinking at Christmas, but that it may also help people emotionally. "Every sense is gratified, and the massage gives a sense of being cherished, which is very important," she says. "Some people leave me feeling energetic enough to go home and start spring cleaning. Others may go home and want to sleep for eight hours. What the body needs it gets." A two-and-a-half hour session (an hour's initial consultation followed by an hour and a half's treatment) costs £40.

Howard Gaier, a "naturopath" who also practises osteopathy and is a registered homoeopath, recommends "infusions of relaxant herbs such as lemon balm, limeflowers, lavender, vervain or American ginseng. Valerian and passionflower are the stronger ones.

"If you don't feel you can give up tea but would like to cut out the caffeine and tannin, try Red Bush tea which contains quercetin, and gives it more of a 'buzz'. Unfortunately there isn't really a substitute for coffee."

Those who prefer a more active method of relaxation — and there are many who do — may like the idea of learning to "dance" with their stress. Lydia Wong and her partner Anthony Kennedy believe the answer is not to eliminate stress from your life but to learn to "dance" with it, through what they call qi-netics, a mixture of t'ai-chi, calisthenics and meditation.

Ms Wong claims that the technique — which she teaches at the Church of the Holy Innocents in Hammersmith, west London, for £5 a session — helps prevent "overweight and overtiredness, premature ageing and loss of vitality" — and has a leaflet which sets out some of the basic qi-netic exercises, which are done "aerobically, meditatively and then in a 'hard' way to build up muscles and create dynamic tension".

Or you could consider juggling away your tension. Max and Susi Oddball of the Oddball Juggling Company have taught bankers and doctors, opera singers and motorcycle couriers how to toss their troubles into the air. "You have to relax in order to juggle," they explain, "as the mind is forced to concentrate on a new experience."

● *British Association for Autogenic Training and Therapy, 101 Harley St, London W1N 1DF, send sae for more information. Institute for Complementary Medicine, 21 Portland Place, London W1N 3AF (071-636 9543), send sae for information on practitioners in all fields. Trish Hooker, 071-624 2220. Howard Gaier, 0730 63137, or c/o Nature Works, 16 Balderton St, London W1 (071-355 4036). Lydia Wong, send £3 and A4 sae for leaflet to 5 Heathfield Rd, Acton, London W3 (081-992 3783). The Oddball Juggling Company, 56 Islington Park St, London N1 1PX (071-354 5660).*

BREATHING SPACE Dame Vera Lynn

Battling through

AS A child I was fond of salads and ate little meat, and never liked cheese or eggs very much. I have to watch my weight, and avoiding anything rich helps because I am on a low-fat diet.

Breakfast varies: I might have cereal with skimmed milk, sometimes half a grapefruit, two slices of stoneground or wholemeal bread and preserves. Twice a week I have tomatoes on toast. I drink Earl Grey at breakfast and tea time. I do my own cooking; I don't buy anything prepared.

I use a lot of spices and herbs in my cooking. Take garlic tablets every day and put it in all your cooking. It helps to clean the system and prevent infections.

When I do vegetables I steam or cook them with little water. For dinner I might steam chicken or fish with lemon juice or ginger. I might roll it in a packet with a little onion and poach it in water.

I am not a great drinker: the odd glass of champagne or red wine with a meal, but that's it.

I take vitamins B and C and a couple of kelp tablets every day, and I've a cupboard full of homoeopathic medicine, which is good for upset tummies and bruises, knocks, cuts and aches. I had acupuncture some years ago because I used to suffer really badly with migraine and I found that it helped a great deal. If you can keep off strong drugs you're much better for it.

I garden a lot, and I have an exercise bike, and in summer I swim a lot. In the bathroom, I might do a few exercises.

We have quite a hectic lifestyle. There's always a television interview or concert to do, so we rarely have more than one or two days a week to call our own.

I never practise singing, never have done. Whenever I sing, the rehearsal with the band or the sound check is the practice.

If I'm not out working late we go to bed at a reasonable time.

If I'm busy in the morning and I've something to do in the evening I'll have a rest in the afternoon. There's always a bit of stress. Even if you're not on the stage singing, you're mixing with a lot of people. It keeps you busy, coping with people.

If I've been out all day and have to go out at night one of my favourite things is to have a hot bath and listen to the radio. Or if I've a spare afternoon I go to my room and do some painting.

When the publishers asked me to do a book on *Unsung Heroines* I stipulated that I wanted women from the Continent to be included. Going to places such as The Netherlands, Denmark and Norway, I've learnt how the Resistance and escape societies worked, because I've been involved in their fund-raising. The women's stories are fascinating.

Interview by Pamela Nowicka

DANCE

New turn to an old favourite

HERE is another competitor for the apparently inexhaustible Christmas ballet audience. Where else to take the family when the pantomimes are thin on the ground?

English National Ballet's Festival Hall Nutcracker is the one with some of the music omitted but other pieces of Tchaikovsky uncomfortably spatchcocked in, to fit a revised story that awkwardly tries to identify most of the characters with the composer and his family. Luckily, that aspect is easily ignored when there is a performance of Tchaikovsky/Drosselmeyer as simperingly insipid as James Supervia's on Saturday.

This is the first that London has seen of the company since Ivan Nagy took charge as artistic director with a revised staff and a company substantially changed at its upper levels. His strongest card is the presence of Yelena Pankova as guest dancer, although other roles should make more of her gift for characterising classical roles.

Her phrasing of the Sugar Plum Fairy's solo could do with some help from Alicia Markova, who first staged it for Peter Schaufuss's production, and Pankova broadens some steps which would benefit from more delicacy. She may well gain from her time here as much as the company.

Her partner was one of the new recruits, Jose Manuel Carreno, from Cuba, making his debut early because of a colleague's illness. He gave sure support, although not quite tall enough for her. He is handsome and subtle with an attractive personality and a sound technique (especially showy pirouettes), although his landings were bumpy.

The only other outstanding performances were the vigorous Russian *trepak* (no better danced than in the Covent Garden production, but much more stirringly presented) and Alexander Grant's comedy turn as master of ceremonies for the Divertissement. Judgement of the company as a whole under its new command had better be suspended, although the farcical playing of the battle with the mice, especially Seth Gilbert's, gibbering Mouse King, is an alarming symptom.

JOHN PERCIVAL

GALLERIES

Happy marriage of form and content

André Kertesz's photography and two centenary shows for David Bomberg, reviewed by John Russell Taylor

At the end of a year which has re-affirmed the continuing usefulness and feasibility of mammoth international touring shows, it is fitting to salute yet another. True, André Kertesz: Diary of Light, 1912-1985 at the Barbican Concourse Gallery is not in any apparent way comparable with the recent blockbusters devoted to Van Gogh, Monet, Hals, Velázquez and such. It is "only" about a photographer, taking up much less space, involving less expense to tour and insure, and qualifying merely for a free-entry presentation in *one of the Barbican Centre's* leftover spaces. But it has been organised by the International Center of Photography in New York, it is in the midst of an extensive international tour, and in overall artistic quality it need fear no comparison.

Among the thousands of exhibited photographers there are still relatively few who can be accepted without question as artists. André Kertesz is one of that select band. He was born Hungarian in 1894 (curious that so many distinguished photographers have been of Hungarian origin), and went to Paris in 1925 and New York in *1936*. Photographic historians of a psychological bent have perceived in his American work an exile syndrome of progressive withdrawal: why else, the hypothesis goes, are so many of his most famous photographs taken from a high angle, like views from an ivory tower?

One thing that this comprehensive show, covering his whole lengthy career, demonstrates is that there is a surprising consistency in his three main periods. He was, from the outset, fascinated by the geometry of a scene. Perhaps some of his most striking pictures do look rather distant from street-level human concerns. But this was only one side of his interests. There are many wonderfully warm and interested depictions of people, right from early pictures such as "An Affectionate Touch", in which a peasant walking across a field with his wife or girlfriend casually and unselfconsciously touches her protectively on the thigh, to the last.

But however great the human interest, it is never allowed to obliterate the abiding concern with form. The peculiar strength of Kertesz is that form and content go so inseparably hand-in-hand. He has an amazingly vivid sense of Coleridge's "Oh, the one Life, within us and abroad . . . ", so that such objects as chairs deserted in the winter park take on almost as much personality as their sometime occupants, or Mondrian's pipe and spectacles on a table evoke irresistibly the man who just left them there.

He is wonderfully appreciative of animal eccentricity, which is always a good sign. And his surrealistic experiments with distortion nearly *always begin with the humanity* of the original subject, and never lose touch with that.

Who else but Kertesz would have looked twice at a broken glass negative of Paris rooftops and seen that if printed just as it was it would give a very powerful image of disruption, as though taken through a window shattered by a bullet. Perhaps more than any other 20th-century photographer, Kertesz could say "I am a camera". Everything that his eyes took in was immediately material for a picture, and yet the critical faculty was always working: *nothing here is facile.*

The major centenary of the year — it has been impossible to forget it — was that of Van Gogh's death. It was also the centenary of Egon Schiele's birth, and possibly (no one knows for certain) the 500th anniversary of Titian's birth. By comparison with these, **David Bomberg**, born in 1890, *is a parochial figure: though he* has been increasingly accepted recently as one of the towering figures in British art, the reputation awaits international consecration. His centenary has not been marked by even a minor museum show.

There are, however, two shows in commercial galleries. The emphasis in both is on Bomberg as a landscape artist. The oils at Bernard Jacobson are all landscapes, attesting to his interest in the form almost throughout his career. The strongest work is in the middle: in the wonderful paintings and drawing of Ronda, with its unforgettable gorge, from the Thirties and the Fifties, or the astounding drawings of war-torn London after the blitz. Here the emotion informs the realistic observation without overwhelming it. On *either side there is danger: the* Palestine paintings of the early Twenties seem too like set tasks, and some of the later paintings are so dominated by the painter's turbulent feelings that they lose coherence.

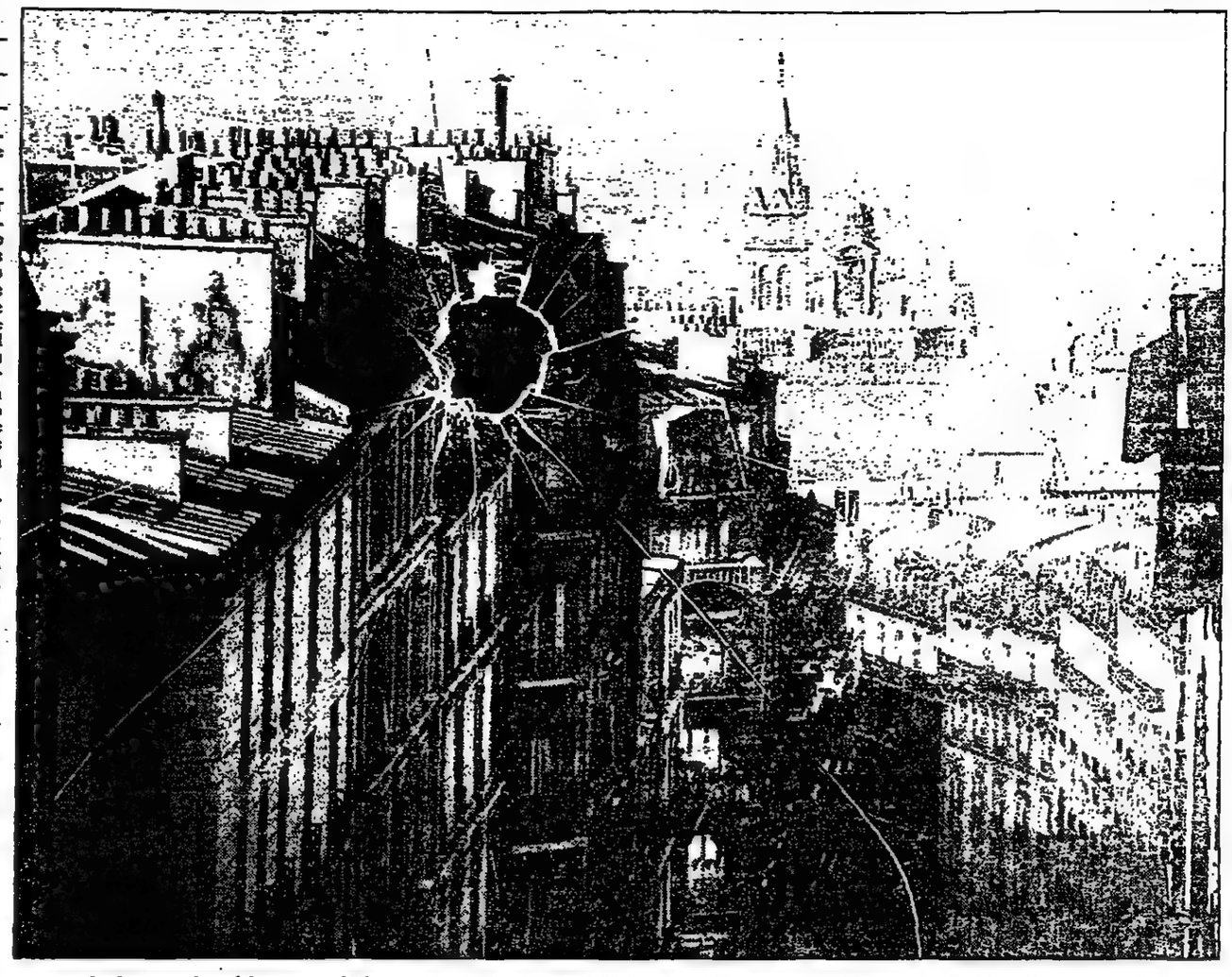
Difficult man as he no doubt was, Bomberg deserved more consistent notice during his lifetime. If he had received that, his career would probably not have see-sawed so wildly.

The impression received from the show of works on paper at Gillian Jason is of someone who, if things had fallen out slightly differently, might have made a commanding figure of the establishment. He could do so many things well: not only the memorable landscapes, but the sketches connected with his main works of the first world war and the early pictures of the Yiddish theatre, where he shows an enviable faculty for turning people into patterns without dehumanising them.

Bomberg did all sorts of things with apparent lack of self-consciousness. Michael Ayrton, a much younger artist with attitudes shaped by the second world war rather than the first, seems to have set out quite deliberately to deserve the title of "renaissance man". Painter, print-maker, illustrator, theatre designer, sculptor, novelist, critic: he was all these things, and to a degree did all of them well.

The sculptures, obsessed with his favourite themes such as the maze, the *doppelgänger* and Icarus, are adept but somehow synthetic, and some of the paintings, especially later on, hardly steer clear of kitsch. But the earlier, Neo-Romantic paintings are sometimes magical, and throughout his career he remained a master of line.

If he had remained happy to be a fine illustrator and brilliant stage designer there would be virtually nothing to say against him. But like his own Icarus, he was fated to fly too near the sun. Knowing one's own capacities and sticking to them is usually better for the artist.



A broken negative, giving a powerful image of disruption: "Paris, 1929" by André Kertesz, from the show at the Barbican Concourse Gallery

André Kertesz. Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-588 9023) daily 12-7.30, until Jan 23.

David Bomberg: Landscapes. Bernard Jacobson, 14a Clifford Street, W1 (071-495 8575) Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-1, Jan 2-Jan 19.

David Bomberg: Works on Paper. Gillian Jason, 42 Inverness Street, NW1 (071-267 4835) Tues-Sat 10.30-6, Jan 2-Jan 11.

Michael Ayrton. Austin/Desmond Fine Art, 15a Bloomsbury Square, WC1 (071-242 4443) Mon-Fri 10.30-6.30, Sat 10.30-2.30, Jan 2-Jan 19.

TIM BISHOP

Eren Zekioglu and Rachel Bennett of the Greenwich Young People's Theatre during *The Great Illusion*

THEATRE

Tie that binds art to real life

Theatre-in-education still has a role to play in schools, argues Joseph Williams

Berlin, 1933. Trude has betrayed her Jewish lodger to the Nazis. Slowly, she looks up to face a concerned audience. A young voice suddenly calls out from the stalls: "How can you do it just because she's Jewish?" "I'm doing what I think is right for my country," she answers defiantly.

Trude is a character in a play. The performance is over, but the actress playing her is still in character. She is being interrogated by a fourth-year schoolboy from a Greenwich comprehensive. This is Theatre-in-Education (or TIE) in action: a mixture of learning role-playing and discussion. After watching this workshop production of *The Great Illusion*, a specially devised play by John Wood and Greenwich YPT (Young People's Theatre), the pupils talk about the issues raised.

But TIE is now an issue itself. Some repertory theatres are axing their own YPT companies in order to keep the main theatres open. Greenwich YPT lies in limbo this Christmas, awaiting a £60,000 slash to its basic funding from Greenwich Borough Council, throwing the company's future into doubt.

Carole Lythgoe, playing Trude in the production, articulates one main argument for drama education: "Teachers are amazed when a pupil speaks up in class for the first time. The theatre taps children in areas that academic subjects cannot always reach."

Many of the pupils from Thomas Tallis mixed comprehensive who watched the production had never entered a theatre before. The play examines how lives were shattered by Nazism: its themes of racism and betrayal are brought up-to-date through bitter-sweet cabaret songs. This is not exactly light-hearted fare for 15-year-olds, but the audience never lose their sense of fun. The actors fling moral dilemmas at the young audience: "Did Trude have a choice? Could she have changed her mind?" Later at school, teachers use a hefty educational pack provided by the company to stimulate a historical discussion.

"Young people have a right to as broad an education as possible," argues Chris Vine, director of Greenwich YPT. "Teachers tell us that our work is a springboard for another six weeks of education." Greenwich council has been charge-capped, and cutting drama education is regarded as a convenient way of saving money.

"Next April will see a tidal *wave of closures of young* people's theatre," says Steve Nolan, a member of Coventry's Belgrade TIE company. The latest casualty is York's YPT, which has folded after its parent company — Theatre Royal, York — reluctantly embarked on a cost-cutting exercise. "Theatre Royal was £250,000 in deficit," says YPT director Anthony Ravenhall, who is now trying to fund an independent YPT in York. "Their reaction was to axe our company."

To many in children's theatre, the 1988 Education Reform Act has been the big bad wolf, because it prevented schools from charging parents for productions in school hours. Voluntary parental contributions had to be sought instead. *"That may mean poorer* inner-city and rural schools will not be able to afford theatre, simply because the parents cannot pay," says Siân Ede, drama education officer at the Arts Council.

However, drama education raises some thorny questions about itself. Should it be part of the National Curriculum, as are music and art? Or is a traditional and purely academic discipline more likely to maintain standards? After all, the concept of TIE did not even exist before 1960, and not all companies today can provide high quality material. TIE managements have been known to exploit actors to accept less than subsistence wages; others try to peddle second-rate or even dubious material to schools.

The Department of Education appreciates the value of drama "within the English curriculum", and believes it is up to the Arts Council to administer funding in specific cases. But is that realistic? There is dismay in some circles that the Royal Shakespeare Company should be bailed out by the Arts Council, while regional repertory and TIE companies are not.

There are, inevitably, stigmas attached to drama education. Somehow, we expect it to be inferior to "ordinary" theatre, when it is simply different. Dedicated actor-teachers value the work for itself. Of course, children fidget, unwrap sweets, and talk through performances, but once the attention is held, a *child's concentration is strong.*

"Children's theatre is still regarded as something cheap and tacky," says David Wood, director of Whirligig Theatre, a popular children's company whose financial future is far from secure. "Our work is valued by teachers, but we are still trying to be revenue-funded, instead of praying for a new grant each year."

Leading article, page 11

NEW RELEASES

ALMOST AN ANGEL (PG): Crocodile Dundee star Paul Hogan as a professional thief who believes he has returned from the dead to do good deeds. Feeble excursion into supernatural whimsy, director John Cornell, with Linda Kozlowski.
Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

FANTASIA (U): Disney's famous visualisation of popular concert classics: ricochets between the charming, the clever and the disastrously cute. With Mickey Mouse as the Sorcerer's Apprentice, music played by Leopold Stokowski and the Philadelphia Orchestra.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 0691) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520).

THE MAHABHARATA (U): Three-hour version of Peter Brook's stage epic which delves into Indian legends about the history of the world. Visually drab, though the material gradually compels attention.
Barbican (071-638 8891).

CURRENT

◆ **AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE (15):** Jane Campion's excellent film about the New Zealand writer Janet Frame.
Rialto (071-837 8402).

◆ **BLUE STEEL (18):** Tough, blood-spattered police thriller with a feminist slant from director Kathryn Bigelow.
Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Mezzanine (071-930 6111).

COME SEE THE PARADISE (15): Alan Parker's romantic drama about the American treatment of the Japanese after Pearl Harbor, handsomely mounted.
Odeon Haymarket (071-839 7697).

THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS (18): Rupert Everett and Natasha Richardson mooching around Venice, falling prey to the warped Christopher Walken. Laborious psychological drama.
Curzon Mayfair (071-499 3737).

◆ **FLATLINERS (15):** Kiefer Sutherland, Julia Roberts and Kevin Bacon as medical students probing the boundaries between death and life. Director, Joel Schumacher.
Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644) Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Swiss Cottage (0426 914 098) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country.

Note: Please check with cinemas for changes in opening times during the Christmas week

◆ **THE FRESHMAN (PG):** Quirky, uneven spoof of *The Godfather*, with Marlon Brando as the mobster who hires a New York film student (Matthew Broderick) as a delivery-boy. Writer-director, Andrew Bergman.
Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Mezzanine (071-930 6111).

◆ **GHOST (12):** Jerry Zucker's supernatural thriller. Bizarre, incoherent, but absorbing while it lasts.
Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Empire (071-437 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ **GOODFELLAS (18):** Martin Scorsese's gangster epic following a New York hoodlum's rise and fall. With Robert De Niro.
Cannon Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Curzon West End (071-439 4805) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ **HENRY AND JUNE (18):** Anaïs Nin's passionate affair with Henry Miller in bohemian Paris recreated with a grandiose flair by director Philip Kaufman.
Cannon Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Empire (071-437 9999) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ **HOME ALONE (PG):** Plucky kid left alone at Christmas wards off bumbling burglars. Broad, machine-tooled American family fun from writer-producer John Hughes. A big US hit.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ **THE HOT SPOT (18):** Raging sexual fires and duplicity in a lazy Texas town, deliciously evoked by director Dennis Hopper. Don Johnson as the drifter who unearths a hornet's nest.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Prince Charles (071-437 8181).

THE ICICLE THIEF (PG): Greatly engaging comedy satirising Italian neo-realism and the screening of films on television. Written and directed by, and starring, Maurizio Nichetti — an Italian comic hugely popular on his home turf.
Metro (071-437 0757).

◆ **THE LITTLE MERMAID (U):** Disney's much-touted version of Hans Christian Andersen's fantasy.
Odeons: Haymarket (071-839 7697) Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

METROPOLITAN (15): Whit Stillman's smooth, ironic comedy of manners set among New York's debutantes and preppies over one Christmas holiday. Witty dialogue, engaging young actors, elegant direction.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Lumière (071-836 0691) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366).

◆ **THE NEVERENDING STORY PART 2 (U):** A return visit to the land of Fantasia. Visually spectacular, but the plot is a jumble and an unlikeable child actor, Jonathan Brandis, spoils some of the fun.
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ **PRESUMED INNOCENT (15):** Alan J. Pakula's riveting, thoughtful version of Scott Turow's bestseller, with Harrison Ford and Greta Scacchi.
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Panton Street (071-930 0631) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

THE SHELTERING SKY (18): A chilling novel (by Paul Bowles) filmed with a warning visual sweep by Bernardo Bertolucci with John Malkovich and Debra Winger.
Odeon Leicester Square (071-930 6111).

◆ **TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES (PG):** Noisy, charmless feature-length advert for the new pop culture fad.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (0426 914 098) West End (071-930 5252/7515) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ **WILD AT HEART (18):** David Lynch's rollicking tale of psychotic evil and sexual passion rampaging through America's heartland, the same ingredients as Blue Velvet, though the results are far more inconsequential. Starring Nicolas Cage, Laura Dern.
Cannon Piccadilly (071-437 3561) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

Note: There may be slight changes to performance times during the Christmas week

☐ **BOOKENDS:** Disappointingly sketchy tale of two literary blokes. Michael Hordern and Dinsdale Landen try to find some content.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 2663) Underground Piccadilly Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs. Ends January 12. (Open Jan 1)

☐ **THE BOYS NEXT DOOR:** Tom Griffin's patronising view of the mentally ill-adjusted. Fine acting, with Steve Guttenberg. Transfer from Hampstead.
Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, SW1 (071-867 1045) Underground Piccadilly Mon-Thurs 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Fri, Sat, 5.30pm. Running time, 2hrs 10mins. Ends December 29.

■ **DANCING AT LUGHNASA:** Brian Friel's haunting beautiful memory play that brings Donegal Catholic prudery up against pagan ecstasy.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Underground/BR Waterloo. Tonight, 7.30pm, mat today, 2.15pm. Running time, 2hrs 30mins.

■ **FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE:** Marvellous jazzy revue packed with Louis Jordan numbers. An evening of joy.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 3686) Underground Piccadilly Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm. Running time: 1hr 45mins. (Open Jan 1)

☐ **GASPING:** John Gordon Sinclair and Jim Carter in Ben Elton's greenish comedy. Rather over the top but lots of laughs.
Theatre Royal Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800) Underground Piccadilly Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Sat, 5pm. Running time 2hrs 30mins. Ends February 16. (Closed Jan 1)

☐ **HIDDEN LAUGHTER:** Hannah Gordon and Peter Bankworth in Simon Gray's thought-provoking play.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Underground Charing Cross Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat 5.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time, 2hrs 15mins. (Open Jan 1)

■ **INTO THE WOODS:** Sondheim's witty mix of fairytales, grimmer than Grimm in the first half, turns utterly transsiberian.
Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-240 9661) Underground: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time, 2hrs 50mins. (Open Jan 1)

☐ **THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP:** Spoof Gothic melodrama, ranging between the farcically funny and the feebly frantic.
Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (071-836 6111) Underground, Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs. Ends January 5. (Open Jan 1)

☐ **OUT OF ORDER:** Donald Sinden puffs, Michael Williams panics, in Ray Cooney farce, overplotted, underdeveloped.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399) Underground Holborn Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm. Running time, 2hrs 15mins. (Open Jan 1)

☐ **PIANO:** Awkward but highly watchable extension by Trevor Griffiths of Cheltenham Theatre's and director's, Nasona's (Coliseum) (as left). Tonight, 7.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 10mins.

☐ **PRIVATE LIVES:** Keith Baxter, Joan Collins and Sara Crowe in Coward's comedy.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Underground Covent Garden. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time, 2hrs 15mins. Ends January 26. (Open Jan 1)

☐ **THE REHEARSAL:** Ian McDiarmid's stylish production (costumes by Jasper Conran) of Anouilh's seduction play.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-379 6107) Underground Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Tues, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time, 2hrs 30mins. (Open Jan 1)

☐ **THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW:** Raucous and wild, bold and bizarre, sometimes deafening rock musical.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118) Underground Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs 9pm, Fri, Sat, 7pm and 9.15pm. Running time, 1hr 30mins. (Open Jan 1)

☐ **RUSS ABBOT'S MADHOUSE:** Amiable Russ poorly served by inane material in old-fashioned show.
London Palladium, Argyle Street, W1 (071-437 7373) Underground, Oxford Circus. Mon-Sat, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Running time, 2hrs 30mins. (Open Jan 1)

☐ **SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE:** Alan Howard and Penny Downie in Bergman's two-hander: disappointingly slack while its transfer from Chichester.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Underground Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time, 2hrs 20mins. Ends January 26. (Closed Dec 26, 31, Jan 1)

■ **THREE SISTERS:** Three Redgraves in somewhat of over-busy production: Vanessa and Lynn outstanding as the older girls.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-734 1166). Underground Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 3hrs. (Open Jan 1)

☐ **TIME AND THE CONWAYS:** John Plowright and lots of other Olivers in Priestley's durbish play, set in 1919 (twice) and 1938.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (071-928 7616) Underground Waterloo. Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 35mins. Ends February 16. (Open Jan 1)

■ **WHAT THE BUTLER SAW:** Incest, assault and bisexual jumbling preserved in the amber of Joe Orton's wit. Not quite a top-class production but well worth seeing.
Hampstead, Avenue Road, NW3 (071-722 9301) Underground Swiss Cottage. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time 2hrs. Extended to January 16. (Open Jan 1)

■ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS:** Alan Bennett's enchanting new version, with jolly sets popping up on the revolve, with Griff Rhys Jones, Richard Briers and all.
National (Olivier) (as left). Tonight-Sat, 2pm and 7.15pm. Running time, 2hrs 45mins. (Open Jan 1)

LONG RUNNERS: ☐ Absurd Person Singular: Whitehall (071-867 1119) (Open Jan 1) . . . ■ Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales (071-930 8681) (Open Jan 1) . . . ☐ Blood Brothers: Albery (071-867 1115) (Open Jan 1) . . . ☐ Buddy: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) (Open Jan 1) . . . ■ Cats: New London (071-405 0072) (Open Jan 1) . . . ☐ Man of the Moment: Globe (071-437 3667) (Open Jan 1) . . . ☐ Me and My Girl: Adelphi (071-836 7611) (Open Jan 1) . . . ■ Les Miserables: Palace (071-434 0909) (Closed Dec 24, 25) . . . ■ Miss Saigon: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (Open Jan 1) (071-836 8108) . . . ☐ The Mousetrap: St Martin's (071-836 1443) (Open Jan 1) . . . ■ The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's (071-839 2244) (Open Jan 1) . . . ■ Return to the Forbidden Planet: Cambridge (071-379 5299) (Open Jan 1) . . . ☐ Run For Your Wife: Duchess (071-836 8243) (Open Jan 1) . . . ☐ Shirley Valentine: Duke of York's (071-836 5122) (Open Jan 1) . . . ☐ A Slice of Saturday Night: Ayre (071-836 2132) (Closed Jan 1) . . . ☐ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) (Open Jan 1) . . . ■ The Woman in Black: Fortune (071-836 2238) (Open Jan 1).

Ticket information on member theatres supplied by Society of West End Theatre

ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE: Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, a substantial amount of British archaeology was devoted to investigating the truth of the Bible. A fascinating story, throwing up all sorts of arcane delights as by-products, is well told in the show.
British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (071-323 1555), 10am-5pm.

EGON SCHIELE AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES: In the past 30 years Schiele has become the painter of painting. His work once shunned, is now universally popular and inescapable in reproduction. Rudolf Leopold of Vienna has been a major collector and the selection of his pictures on show at the Royal Academy permits on his 52 Schieles.
Royal Academy of Art, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-439 7438), 10am-6pm.

TODAY'S EVENTS

ARNOLD BROWN: The success of Radio 4's comedy series *Arnold Brown and Company* has firmly placed this Glaswegian Lithuanian Jewish ex-chartered accountant (and all the foreign) of new British comedy. First of nine performances.
Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 3191), 8pm.

THE RAJ: The centuries in which the British Raj dominated India contained innumerable mutual misunderstandings as well as many fruitful interchanges. *The Raj* tells the story through portraits, documents, furnishings and such.
National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (071-306 0055), 10am-5pm.

TCHAIKOVSKY EVENING: The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Adrian Leaper with pianist Philip Fowke and the Band of the Grenadier Guards perform a typical Christmas programme featuring the composer's Nutcracker Suite and Swan Lake Suite.
Barbican Hall, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891), 7.45pm.

CINDERELLA: London City Ballet has become chosen an alternative Christmas choice for its London season. The production, choreographed by William Morgan, is stronger on comedy than on romance and is unashamedly a production for people wanting a fun night out. Lavish designs by Johan Engel.
Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), 7.30pm.

Museums, events for children

Indoor fun for youngsters — exhibitions, museums and more. Compiled by Sue Moore

"WE HAVE no ninja turtles" was the proud claim of many of Britain's exhibition organisers this week. Only the **Museum of the Moving Image** has bucked the anti-turtle trend, with its display of original animation cels and drawings from the turtles' television series.

Museum curators recognise that amphibians and reptiles hold a special fascination for children. Both the "Living Dinosaurs" exhibition at the **Natural History Museum** and the "Monsters of the Deep" show at the **Yorkshire Museum** have recently been extended in response to popular demand. The particular attraction is that the chief exhibits actually move: in London they are animated by some Japanese technology, and in York the living creatures swim about in front of visitors' noses.

The fossilised skeletons in the "Great Sea Dragons" exhibition at **Leicestershire Museum** can no longer swim, but the venerable ichthyosaurs, pterosaurs and other ancient sea beasts have travelled up from the South West, where they have been playing to packed houses for some months.

Enterprising curators in the spirit of Christmas past have dug up an assortment of strange and unusual exhibits from their collections. Lionel Lambourne, head of paintings at the **Victoria and Albert Museum**, has hunted out the original illustrations for Dickens's *The Christmas Carol*, as well as an impressive selection of decorative Victorian biscuit tins to show in the "Christmas Then" exhibition. The **Geffrye Museum's** seasonal trip back in time, "Port Wine and Pantomime", celebrates domestic Christmas decorations and traditions. Assembled at the **Towner Art Gallery and Local History Museum** is a chronological display of toys and games.

"Mr Fezziwig's Ball": original illustration from Dickens's *The Christmas Carol* at the Victoria and Albert Museum

The fierce sound-effects emanating from the Victorian menagerie of stuffed animals in Hull's **Old Grammar School Museum** are part of "That's Entertainment", an exhibition which explores leisure activities in Hull over the last century. Old-fashioned penny-in-the-slot machines, provide views of a flickering haunted house scene.

Staff at the **Derby Museum and Art Gallery** have been having fun picking out a bizarre selection of historic objects for "Another Christmas Present Exhibition". Inspiration for next year's Christmas shopping starts here: treat your relatives to a complete set of shining armour or an ancient gramophone.

Education staff at the **Royal Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh** have been inspired by the splendid "Work of Angels" exhibition to come up with children's activities related to Celtic metalwork. The story-writing workshop for ten- to 13-year-olds takes Celtic heroes and heroines as a starting point, and the Celtic manuscript project for ten- to 16-year-olds will be covering the floor of the museum with enlarged designs drawn from the jewellery and other objects on show.

Between today and December 29, the museums will be full of young people busily drawing and painting their way around the collection in the Christmas Art Competition. Merseyside's museums offer the biggest choice of quizzes this year, with seasonal trails set through the **Walker Art Gallery's** paintings and the **Maritime Museum's** exhibits, as well as the permanent collection of the **Liverpool Museum**.

The "Alphabetical Animals" quiz at the **Leicestershire Museum** has insects and molluscs among its engaging collection of zoological oddities. The "Christmas Crackers" family event at the **Natural History Museum** also includes a treasure hunt through the collection. The hardworking team of scientists will also be "on show", ready to answer questions about matters biological and geological.

Over at the **Science Museum** Gerraint Thomas performs the role of the eccentric Victorian science lecturer, Professor John Henry Pepper, who regularly packed out the Royal Polytechnic Institution during the 1860s. His energetic and popularising approach to science will be recreated in half a dozen performances over the next week.

Events nationwide

● **CARDIFF** *Happy Holidays*: Activities for children, including cannon firing, model train operating and brass rubbing.
Welsh Industrial and Maritime Museum, Bute Street (0222 481919). 10.30am-4.30pm Mon-Sat; 2.30-4.45pm Sun. Closed Dec 31 & Jan 1. £1 adults; 75p OAPs; 50p children. Until Jan 6.

● **DERBY** **Pickford's House Museum**, Friargate, (322 255363). 11am-5pm Mon; 10am-6pm Tues-Sat; 2-5pm Sun. Closed today am and Jan 1. Admission 30p adults; 10p children over 11 (includes entry to whole house).

● *Another Christmas Present Exhibition*: Details above.
Derby Museum and Art Gallery, The Strand, (0332 255363). Open as for Pickford's House. Free.

● **EASTBOURNE** *Toys For Your Delight*: Details above.
Towner Art Gallery and Local History Museum, High Street, Old Town (0323 411688). 10am-5pm Tues-Sat; 2-5pm Sun. Free. Until Feb 17.

● **EDINBURGH** *The Christmas Art Competition*: Details above.
Royal Museum of Scotland, Chamber Street, (031-225 7534). 10-5pm, Dec 27-29. Entry (up to three works of art) free.

● *Create A Huge Celtic Design* Details above.
Royal Museum of Scotland, as above, 10am-12.30pm; 1.30pm-4pm, Dec 27-29. 50p.

● *Story Writing Workshops*: Details above.
Royal Museum of Scotland, 2-4pm, tomorrow. Booking essential. 50p.

● **GLASGOW** *Puppet Workshop*: Gallery tour, followed by puppet making and a short puppet show, devised by the eight- to 12-year-olds participating.
Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Argyle Street (041 357 3939).
10.30 and 1pm, Jan 4. Free.

● **HULL** *That's Entertainment*: Details above.
The Old Grammar School, South Church Side (Market Square) (0482 222737). 10am-5pm Mon-Sat; 2.30-4.30pm Sun. Closed Jan 1. Free. Until March.

Robotic tyrannosaurus rex: see Natural History Museum, right

● **LEICESTER** *Alphabetical Animals*: Christmas display and quiz for children, tracking down 26 creatures large and small from the museum's collection (until Jan 7).

● *Great Sea Dragons*: Details above (until Jan 20).
Leicestershire Museum and Art Gallery New Walk (0533 554100). 10am-5.30pm, Mon-Sat; 2 to 5.30pm, Sun. Free. Until Jan 13.

● **LIVERPOOL** *New Year Quiz*: A treasure hunt through unusual details in the gallery's paintings. For seven- to 14-year-olds (until Jan 6).
Merseyside Maritime Museum, Albert Dock (051 709 1551). 10am-5pm Mon-Sat; 2-5pm Sun. Closed Jan 1. Free. Until Jan 25.

● **LONDON** *A White Christmas* is this year's "Spirit of Christmas" exhibition, with displays about snowballing and sledging, as well as symbolic figures such as the Snow Queen and Santa Claus.
Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, E2 (081 980 4315). 10am-6pm, Mon-Thurs & Sat; 2.30-6pm Sun. Closed: every Fri; Jan 1. Free.

● *Port Wine and Pantomime*: Details above.
Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, E2 (071 739 9893). 10am-5pm Tues-Sat & bank holiday Mons; 2-5pm Sun. Closed Jan 1. Free.

● *Muppets, Monsters and Magic*: Details above.
Museum of the Moving Image South Bank, (071 928 3535). 10am-6pm Tues-Sat; also Dec 31 & Jan 1. £3.95 adult; £2.75 children and concessions; £12 family ticket. Until end of Feb.

● *The Living Dinosaur*: (See above.) Exhibition continues until end of Feb.
Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD (071 938 9123). 10am-6pm Mon-Sat; 1-6pm Sun. Admission £2.50 adults; £1.50 under 15s, concessions; free 4.30-6pm Mon-Fri & 5-6 Sat, Sun, bank holidays.

● *Professor Pepper's Lectures*: See above.
(3pm, Dec 27-31 & Jan 2. Free. Tickets from the information desk.)

● *Lego Motor Show*: Exhibition of futuristic car models built in Lego. Visitors can build their own concept cars in the specially designed play areas (until March 24).
Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 (071 938 8000). 10am-6pm Mon-Sat; 11am-6pm Sun. Closed Jan 1. £2.50 adult; £1.50 OAP; £1 children/concs.

● *Christmas Then*: Details above.
Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road SW7 (071 938 8500). 10am-5.50pm Mon-Sat; 2.30-5.30 Sun. Closed Jan 1. Free, donation requested: £2 adult, £1 under 16s and concs. Until Jan 27.

● **MANCHESTER** *Xperiment! Gallery*: A hands-on science centre, where the mysteries of electricity, lasers, lights and shadows are all explained by DIY experiments that make physics fun.
Museum of Science and Industry, Liverpool Road Station, Liverpool Road, Castlefield, M3 (061 832 2244). 10am-5pm daily. £2 adults; £1 children/concs. Telephone to check opening.

● **TAUNTON** *Becket Illuminations*: A splendid 55ft-long illuminated cartoon strip about the life and times of Thomas Becket, drawn by Oliver "Bagpuss" Postgate, in the style of a Thurber Bayeux tapestry, with plenty of amusing and gory details (until Jan 4).
Somerset County Museum, Taunton Castle (0823 255504). 10am-5pm Mon-Sat. Closed Jan 1. 80p adults; 30p children (includes access to museum collection).

● **YORK** *Monsters of the Deep*: See details above.
Yorkshire Museum, Museum Gardens (0904 629745).
10am-5pm Mon-Sat; 1-5pm Sun. Closed Jan 1. £1.80 adults, £1 children/OAPs; £4 family ticket.

● **WALTHAM ABBEY** *Everything In Its Place*: A celebration of the jigsaw, with exhibits from two centuries of puzzle making.
Epping Forest District Museum, 39/41 Sun Street (0992 716882). 2pm-5pm Fri-Mon; noon-5pm Tues. Closed Weds, Thurs; Jan 1. Free.

● Yesterday's *Times* listed children's theatrical events
Tomorrow's paper will have children's outdoor events

WORD-WATCHING

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 18

CATAPLASM
(a) A medicinal compress, bandage, or poultice, from the Greek *kata* over + *plassein* to plaster; Umberto Eco: "That is arctium lappa; a good cataplasm of fresh roots cicatrises skin eczemas."
PLANXTY
(c) An Irish dance or dance-tune, or song or song-tune, like a jig but considerably slower, origin obscure, but with that formation it cannot be native Irish: "He leaves at every hospitable mansion a planxty, celebrating the virtues, charms, or high descent of the hostess."
EASSEL
(c) Eastward, easterly, to the east, Lowland Scots dialect and language (lallans), the mode of formation is obscure: "O, if ye get to eassel and wessel again, I am undone."
SAGATHY
(c) A woollen stuff, origin obscure, but with cognates such as the French *sagatis*, Spanish *sagati*: "He went about dressed in grey sagathy and woollen stockings."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Tarrasch — Walbrodt from the Hastings Tournament of 1895. What is White's winning move? Solution in tomorrow's *Times*.

This year's Hastings Premier takes place at the Cinque Ports Hotel in Hastings from December 28 to January 13.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 ... Re3+ 2 Kd1 (2 Kf1 Re1 mate) 2 ... Re1 mate.

هكذا من الاجل

BBC 1

7.00 News, regional news and weather
7.15 Children's BBC, introduced by Simon Parkin, Andi Peters and Philippa Forrester, begins with Rupert. 7.20 Hallo Spencer. Puppet adventures (r) 7.40 Ovide. Cartoon about a duck-billed platypus (r)
8.00 News, regional news and weather 8.15 Touché Turtle. Cartoon (r) 8.20 Wizbit with Paul Daniels (r) 8.45 New Adventures of Mighty Mouse (r)
9.00 News, regional news and weather 9.05 Popeye and Son. Cartoon (r) 9.35 Why Don't You . . ? Entertaining ideas for bored youngsters 10.00 Quick Draw McGraw 10.10 Playdays (r) 10.30 Charlie Brown and Snoopy (r) 10.50 The O-Zone
11.00 Film: The Five Pennies (1959). Good musical numbers lift an otherwise conventional biopic of Dixieland cornettist Red Nichols. Danny Kaye takes the title role with support from Barbara Bel Geddes as his wife, plus Bobbie Meredith, Louis Armstrong and Ray Anthony. Directed by Melville Shavelson 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather 1.15 Neighbours. (Ceefax)
1.40 Film: Zulu (1964). Rousing and well-staged story of a British garrison, comprising eight officers and 97 men, having to defend itself against 4,000 Zulu warriors. The beleaguered include Stanley Baker, Jack Hawkins and, in his first important role after languishing in second features, Michael Caine. Directed by Cy Endfield (Ceefax)
3.50 Bushfire Moon. First of a two-part children's drama set in 19th-century Australia (r)
4.40 The Really Wild Dinosaur Show. Terry Nutkins, Sue Dawson and Chris Packham put fossil evidence together to find out what sort of creatures dinosaurs were
5.05 Blue Peter Review of the Year. (Ceefax)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax)
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather
6.15 Regional News Magazines
6.30 The World's Strongest Man. Bill McFarlan and Jamie Reeves watch astonishing feats of strength as eight men heave for the DAF Trophy in Joensuu, Finland. (Ceefax)
7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax)
8.00 Last of the Summer Wine. Christmas edition of Roy Clarke's geriatric comedy, with Bill Owen, Peter Sallis and Brian Wilde. Barry gets locked in the pub over the night of Christmas and decides to celebrate. The next morning he has a hangover and is too scared to go home, which proves an opportune moment for Foggy to intervene with his Christmas present — a bleeper. (Ceefax)
8.30 A Question of Sport. The programme reaches its 21st birthday and, to celebrate, David Coleman and regular team captains Ian Botham and Bill Beaumont are joined by captains from years past — Emlyn Hughes, Willie Carson, Brendan Foster and Gareth Edwards. (Ceefax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather
9.30 One Foot in the Christmas Grave. Christmas Day is enlivened for Victor (Richard Wilson) and Margaret (Anette Crosbie) by the company of 263 gnomes. As if this were not fun enough for Victor, he also gets pressed into filling the back end of a cow in the Nativity play. (Ceefax)

Leaving 10 Downing Street: Margaret Thatcher (10.30pm)

10.30 Review of the Year 1990. Never mind that it is not quite over yet, Jonathan Dimbleby takes us on a dizzying journey through time to revisit the scenes, events and people which made 1990 memorable. Dimbleby sets foot in Germany, the Gulf, and Rome, site of the World Cup final. He chats to Bobby Robson and the governor of Strangeways prison, reflects on the release of Nelson Mandela and the exit of Margaret Thatcher, and reminds us that while we have been living under the threat of war for the past few months an even more horrifying menace has been insidiously sweeping across the land — Turtle Power
11.50 Film: Lenny — Live and Unleashed (1989). Irrepressible comedian Lenny Henry recorded live at London's Hackney Empire. With guests Jeff Beck and Robbie Coltrane. Directed by Andy Harries
1.25am Weather

BBC 2

8.00 News followed by English Towns. A visit to Stamford in Lincolnshire, the first town to be designated a Conservation Area (r). (Ceefax)
8.45 Wildlife Showcase: Mulu — A Forest in Borneo. A look at a vast system of caves beneath Sarawak's rainforest, which provides a roost for millions of bats (r). (Ceefax)
9.10 Film: Tarzan's New York Adventure (1942, b/w). Tarzan and Jane go to New York in pursuit of their son, who has been kidnapped by a circus. Starring Johnny Weissmuller and Maureen O'Sullivan. Directed by Richard Thorpe
10.20 Film: The Girl Most Likely (1957). Lively musical comedy starring Jane Powell as a girl trying to choose between her three boyfriends by envisaging married life with each of them. With Cliff Robertson, Keith Andes and Tommy Noonan. Directed by Mitchell Leisen
11.55 How Are the Kids? *Hasanne*. Continuing the series of short films illustrating the rights of children around the world. An African mother fights against the traditions of her Niger village to save her desperately ill son from death 12.05 Charlie Chalk (r)
12.20 The Unanswered Question: Leonard Bernstein at Harvard. As a tribute to the late Leonard Bernstein, another chance to see a series of lectures he gave at Havard in 1973. In this second talk, Musical Syntax, Bernstein explores structure and demonstrates his theory with a humorous prose version of Mozart's Symphony No 40 (r)
2.00 The Transformers: Out of the Wilderness. Documentary about inspired teacher Reuven Feuerstein, whose remarkable work with children considered unintelligent has been recognised throughout the world (r). (Ceefax)
3.00 Beethoven Symphonies. The London Classical Players, conducted by Roger Norrington, perform Beethoven's Symphony No 6 in F, Op 68, the Pastoral.
3.45 Nicholas Craig's Interview Masterclass. Distinguished actor Nicholas Craig demonstrates how to cope with chat show appearances. Another thespian spoof displaying the dramatic talents of Nigel Planer
4.00 Cricket: Second Test. Highlights of the second day's play in the match between Australia and England from Melbourne
4.30 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures: The Grand Design. First of six lectures on the origin of the universe given by Professor Malcolm Longair, Astronomer Royal of Scotland
5.35 Film: The Dark Crystal (1982). Fantasy adventure from the Muppet stable. Evil creatures have taken over the world and they can only be defeated by finding the missing shard of the Dark Crystal. Entertaining morality tale with stunning special effects and puppet mastery. Directed by Jim Henson and Frank Oz. (Ceefax)
7.05 Animation Now. *The Death of Stalinism in Bohemia*. A personal view of recent Czech history from artist Jan Svankmajer (r)
7.15 Joyce Grenfell. The first of four programmes starring the celebrated comic actress in one-woman performances recorded in 1972 (r)
7.45 Hobson's Choice. David Bintley's three-act ballet based on the Harold Brighouse comic play about the unlikely marriage between a poor Salford bootmaker and a rich man's daughter in turn-of-the-century Lancashire. With Karen O'Donovan as Maggie and Michael O'Hare as Will Mossop. Performed by the Birmingham Royal Ballet (formerly Sadler's Wells) with music by Paul Reade
9.25 A Life in Pieces. Interviewed by Ludovic Kennedy, Sir Arthur Streeb-Geebling (better known as Peter Cook) selects his second Christmas gift
9.30 A Letter to Christendom. An *Open Space* documentary presented by Rana Kabbani, a Syrian Muslim writer in Britain, who looks at the disturbing way in which the Christian west has portrayed Islam over the last 1,000 years

Playing the role of satanic seducer: Jack Nicholson (10.30pm)

10.30 Film: The Witches of Eastwick (1987). Witty adaptation of John Updike's tale of the devil's visit to a small New England town. Jack Nicholson enjoys himself as the satanic seducer who is summoned by three single women all looking for excitement in their lives. The combination of the comic and the menacing is nicely balanced and exuberant performances do the rest. With Cher, Susan Sarandon and Michelle Pfeiffer. Directed by George Miller of *Mad Max* fame (Ceefax) 12.25am Weather

ITV

6.00 TV-am
9.25 The New Adventures of He-Man 9.50 Thames News
9.55 Film: The Small One (1978). An animated Walt Disney tale of a young Hebrew boy who sells his donkey that is too old to work to a man, Joseph, who is taking his pregnant wife, Mary, to Bethlehem Directed by Don Bluth
10.25 Film: Babes in Toyland (1961) starring Ray Bolger, Tommy Sands and Annette Funicello. Barnaby, the villain of the piece, tries to take over Toyland and force Mary Contrary to marry him. Directed by Jack Donohue
12.25 Home And Away 12.55 Thames News and weather
1.00 News at One with John Suchet Weather
1.20 Film: The Three Lives of Thomasina (1963) starring Susan Hampshire, Patrick McGoohan and Karen Dotrice. Andrew MacDhui is a widower with a small child; he is also the new vet for the village of Inveranoch, but the locals prefer to take their injured animals to Lori Macgregor, a young girl whom the village children believe is a witch. Sentimental Disney film aimed at younger viewers. Directed by Don Chaffey
3.15 News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 The Young Doctors. Australian family drama
3.55 The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship. Animated tale about a young Russian boy who takes a trip in a flying machine 5.00 Cartoon Time (r) 5.10 Blockbusters
5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong (Oracle). Weather
6.00 Home And Away (r)
6.30 Thames News and weather
7.00 Emmerdale. (Oracle)
7.30 Wheel of Fortune Christmas Special. Festive game show with Nicky Campbell and guests Bobby Davro, Anthea Turner and Carol Vorderman
8.00 The Bill: Friends and Neighbours. There are long faces at Sun Hill. DC Carver's life is in a mess but moving into a section house with the station twit, Reg Hollis, seems unlikely to provide a solution. Roach is in trouble, too, having been thrown out of his lodgings (Oracle)
8.30 The Upper Hand Christmas Special. *Requiem*. Caroline and Laura are convinced that Charlie has a secret girlfriend when he keeps going out every evening. Will their suspicions ruin the festivities? Seasonal one-off for a below par sitcom. With Diane Weston, Joe McGann and Honor Blackman

Accurate portrayal: Daniel Day-Lewis as Christy Brown (9.00pm)

9.00 Film: My Left Foot (1989).
● CHOICE: This inspirational study of the crippled Irish artist, Christy Brown, gets its first television showing after an unexpected success at the Oscar ceremony, where acting awards went to the star, Daniel Day-Lewis, and to Brenda Fricker. Told in flashback by Brown's nurse, the story traces his determination to lead a fulfilling life after being stricken with cerebral palsy and only being able to control his left foot. The director, Jim Sheridan, decides that the material is strong enough without having to impose his own stamp on it and his main contribution is to head off the inherent sentimentality with injections of well-placed humour. Both Day-Lewis as the adult Christy and Hugh O'Conor as his younger self give painfully accurate performances and there is fine playing, too, from Fricker and Ray McAnally as the parents. It is a good to see a home-grown film (the co-producer was Granada Television) being shown at peak viewing time. (Oracle)
10.55 News with Trevor McDonald. (Oracle) Weather 11.10 Thames News and weather
11.20 Film: Enter The Dragon (1973) starring Bruce Lee and John Saxon. Martial arts drama that, thanks to Lee's dynamic presence, has become a cult classic. Directed by Robert Clouse
1.10am Film: Cool Hand Luke (1967). Paul Newman in one of his best performances as a man sentenced to two years on a chain gang whose refusal to give in to the brutal administrators and lose his spirit make him a legend among his colleagues. A thoughtful and polished film which offers a Christ allegory for those who want to pick it up. With George Kennedy, who won an Oscar, and Jo Van Fleet. Directed by Stuart Rosenberg. Followed by News headlines
3.35 Film: The Boys in Blue (1983). Dreadful remake of the Will Hay classic, *Ask a Policeman*, starring Tommy Cannon and Bobby Ball Directed by Val Guest 5.20 Cartoon Time (r)
5.55 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Art of Landscape. Natural scenery and soothing music
6.20 Business Daily 6.30 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 Sesame Street 10.25 Batman and Robin (b/w) Episode four
10.45 The Adventures of TinTin. Episode one of an animated adventure
11.00 Things To Come. What does the future hold? Malcolm Bennett and Penny Southgate pose some of the questions and sometimes have the answers in this innovative series about our visions of tomorrow (r)
11.30 Tony Jacklin's Pro-Celebrity Golf Challenge. Round two from Le Touquet, France. Guests are rugby union's Gavin Hastings and Peter Alliss, the golf commentator
12.30 Channel 4 Racing from Kempton Park. Live coverage of the 12.45, 1.15, 1.45, 2.20 and 2.50 races
3.10 The Quitter. Animated advice about not smoking
3.20 Film: The Old Fashioned Way (1934, b/w) The W C Fields season continues with a comedy built around its star about the Great McGonigle and his troupe of travelling players. Directed by William Beaudine
4.40 Faerie Tale Theatre: The Boy Who Left Home To Find Out about the Shivers. A Transylvanian tale, appropriately starring Christopher Lee, about a man who has never experienced fear. Cast out by his paranoid family, Martin (Peter MacNichol) is challenged to stay in a haunted castle for three nights and in return he will receive a kingdom and a beautiful princess (Diana Hill). Also starring David Warner and Frank Zappa (Teletext)
5.40 The Further Adventures of Billy the Fish
5.45 Rarg. Animation about the inhabitants of Rarg (r)
6.15 Celebrity Fifteen-to-One presented by William G. Stewart
7.00 Channel 4 News with Nicholas Owen and Zeinab Badawi. (Oracle)
7.50 Comment followed by Weather
8.00 Roseanne. Dan's super-salesman father comes to visit and Roseanne is forced into the role of peacekeeper (r)
8.30 Cheers: Friends, Romans, Accountants. Hugely successful American sitcom from the same team who made *Taxi* (r)
9.00 Just Like That.
● CHOICE Paul Madden's lovely tribute to Tommy Cooper was first shown last Christmas and if it was repeated for the next ten Christmases, Channel 4 would hardly be swamped with complaints. With material stretching well back into the Fifties, Madden could easily have filled the hour with Cooper clips and left it at that. But even a comic who communicated as directly and spontaneously as Cooper is worth a comment or two. The writer Sid Green points out that the essence of Cooper's act was to look as if he has been pushed on to the stage and did not know what was happening next. The huge, clumsy frame and the manic chuckle did the rest. His humour was anarchic and timeless, which is why, in this film, younger performers such as Lenny Henry and Adrian Edmondson can happily claim affinity with them. He was a true original and as they used to say about Max Miller, whose portrait hung in Cooper's living room, there will never be another

An unlimited Jewish sense of humour: Jackie Mason (10.00pm)

10.00 An Audience with Jackie Mason.
● CHOICE: The American comedian rubs his Jewish humour off an audience of celebrities, including Bruce Forsyth, Michael Winner and Barry Humphries. Some of the questions lobbed at him are plain silly and Mason is not slow to say so. Invective is a strong element in his act but his main asset is being able to talk at about 400 words a minute on almost any subject and never lose his thread. Jewish comics have the built-in advantage of a cultural background that is different enough from most other people's to provide an almost unlimited supply of them-and-us jokes. Mason mines the vein as effectively as anyone, helped by an engaging self-mockery and a vast store of knowledge which even, when prompted by Ken Livingstone, extends to the intricacies of the British poll tax. Mason can be serious as well, but serious is never the same as dull
11.00 Robin Williams: An Evening at the Met. Manic humour with the powerful comedian who lets loose on a range of subjects from politics to parenthood at New York's Metropolitan Opera House (r)
12.00 Chinese Ghost Stories: Close Encounters of the Spooky Kind (1980). A Far Eastern action-fantasy directed by Samo Hung. (With English subtitles) Ends at 2.00am

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 6.25pm-7.00 Anglia News 1.10am Film: The Last Ninja 3.00 Rolling Stones Music Special 4.00 The ITV Chart Show 5.00-5.20 Fifty Years On

BORDER
As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Lookaround Thursday 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 11.20-1.10am Film: The Enforcer

CENTRAL
As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Coronation Street 6.25-7.00 Central News 11.20 1st Night 11.50 Film: Enter the Dragon 1.40am Film: Cool Hand Luke 4.05-5.20 Jean Michel Jarre — Paral

CHANNEL
As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Sons and Daughters 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Channel News 6.15 Review '90 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters

GRAMPIAN
As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 North Tonight 6.30-7.00 The Way It Was 11.20-1.10am Film: The Enforcer

GRANADA
As London except: 6.30pm-7.00 Granada Tonight 11.20-1.10am Film: The Enforcer

HTV WEST
As London except: 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 HTV News 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters

HTV WALES
As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.30 Wales At Six

SCOTTISH
As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Sons and Daughters 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Scotland Today 6.15-7.00 The Sick Kids

TSW
As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Home and Away 5.10-5.40 The List Special 6.00 TSW Today 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 11.20-1.10 Film: The Enforcer

TVS
As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Sons and Daughters 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Coast to Coast 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters

TYNE TEES
As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Northern Life 6.30-7.00 Watch Out For The Worm 11.20-1.10am Film: The Enforcer

ULSTER
As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Glenroe 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Six Tonight 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Calendar 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters

S4C
Starts: 6.00am The Art of Landscape 6.30 C4 Daily 9.25 Sesame Street 10.25 The Adventures of Batman and Robin 10.45 Faerie Tale Theatre 11.45 Slot Meithrin 12.00 Tonight...With Jonathan Ross 12.30 Channel 4 Racing from Kempton Park 3.10 Ibiza 3.50 Slot 23 4.15 3,2,1 6.00 Newyddion 6.10 Cado'r Cracyr 12.00 Chinese Ghost Stories: Encounters of the Spooky Kind 2.00 Diwedd

RTE 1
Starts: 9.45am Film: Gulliver's Travels 11.05 Film: Blackbeard's Ghost 12.50 News 12.55 Billy at the Circus 2.25 Film: Born Yesterday 4.15 Film: The Adventures of Robin Hood 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 News 6.15 Film: Short Circuit 8.00 Faces and Places 9.00 News 9.15 Five Days in Summer 10.20 The Bourne Identity 11.55 News 12.05am Close

NETWORK 2
Starts: 8.00am Bosco 8.30 Grimms Fairytales 10.00 Danger Point 11.00 Beatbox Christmas Special 1.00 Racing From Leopardstown 3.25 The Den 3.30 Care Bears 4.00 Captain Planet 4.30 Happy Birthday 4.35 Disney Special 5.30 Castle of Adventure 6.05 The Story of Spit McPhee 6.30 Home and Away 6.55 Murphi 7.00 Circuit 7.30 Captain Cornelius Deadeye Tucker 8.00 News followed by American Football 9.00 Sinead O'Connor — The Year of the Horse 10.25 News followed by Flashback 11.25 The RTE Vanbrugh String Quartet 11.55approx Close

Hunt: Frazer Hines (ITV, 7.00pm)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
● Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites. 6.00am Cricket: The Ashes, England v Australia. Live coverage of the second Test from Melbourne 7.00 Cricket Highlights 7.30 The DJ Kat Show 8.40 Playabout; Mrs Pepperpot 9.10 Jackpot 9.30 Here's Lucy 10.00 It's Your Round 10.30 The Young Doctors 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful 11.30 The Young and the Restless 12.30pm Sale of the Century 1.00 True Confessions 1.30 Another World 2.15 Loving 2.45 Wife of the Week 3.15 Bewitched 3.45 The DJ Kat Show 5.00 Lost in Space 6.00 Family Ties 6.30 Sale of the Century 7.00 Love at First Sight 7.30 In Living Color 8.00 The Simpsons 8.30 Wings 9.00 Wiseguy 10.00 Love at First Sight 10.30 Night Court 11.00 Cricket Highlights 12.00 Cricket. The Ashes. England v Australia. Third day of the second Test from Melbourne

SKY NEWS
● Via the Astra satellite. News on the hour. 6.00am Sunrise 8.30 Beyond 2000 9.00 Dayline 9.30 Newsline 10.30 Beyond 2000 11.30 Review '90 — Foreign News 1.30pm NBC Today, Part One 2.30 NBC Today, Part Two 3.30 Review '90 — Foreign News 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.00 Live at Five 6.30 Newsline 7.30 International Business Report 8.30 Review '90 — Foreign News 10.30 Newsline 11.30 NBC Nightly News 12.30am Newsline 1.30 NBC Nightly News 2.30 Review '90 — Foreign News 3.30 Beyond 2000 4.30 Newsline 5.30 Newsline

SKY NEWS
● Via the Marco Polo satellite. News on the hour. 6.00am Sunrise 8.30 Beyond 2000 9.00 Dayline 9.30 Newsline 10.30 Beyond 2000 11.30 Review '90 — Foreign News 1.30pm Drama Documentary — Handel 3.30 The Flood 4.30 La Sylphide 5.30 Raphael Quartet Grosse Fugue 7.30 Der Rosenkavalier, Part One 10.30 Der Rosenkavalier, Part Two 12.30am Newsline 1.30 NBC Nightly News 2.30 Review '90 — Foreign News 3.30 Beyond 2000 4.30 Newsline 5.30 Newsline

SKY MOVIES
● Via the Astra satellite. 6.00am Showcase
10.00 Carry On Camping (1969): The Carry On team go on holiday
12.00 Les Miserables (1935). Jean Valjean (Fredric March) escapes from prison a bitter man. Redeemed by Bishop Bienvenu (Cedric Hardwicke), he becomes a mayor
2.00pm The Prince and the Pauper (1978). Two young look-alikes swap places
4.00 The House on Carroll Street (1988). Kelly McGillis, branded a subversive during the McCarthy era, uncovers a secret government conspiracy
6.00 Big (1988). A young boy wakes up to find his wish to be big has been granted
7.40 Entertainment Tonight
8.00 The Navigator (1988): To escape the Black Plague, the residents of a 14th-century Cumbrian mining village journey into the bowels of the Earth and emerge in modern-day New Zealand
9.40 Projector
10.00 The Blob (1988). A self-enlarging pink tide of terror threatens to engulf a town
11.45 Mad Max 2 (1981). Violent second outing for Mel Gibson as the road warrior
1.30am Fellini's Casanova (1976). The life of the legendary romantic Giovanni Jacopo Casanova de Seingal
4.00 Traxx (1988): Witty action spoof in which a small-town sheriff helps to clean up a crime-ridden town. Ends at 5.25

EUROSPORT
● Via the Astra satellite. 7.30am Baseball 8.30 Eurobics 9.00 1990 Tennis Classics 11.00 Equestrianism 12.00 Eurobics 12.30pm World Aerobatics Championships 1.00 16 Days of Glory: A documentary about the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, Canada 3.00 Tennis. Hopman Cup 6.00 Mobil One Motor Sport News 6.30 Eurosport News 7.00 Football: World XI v Brazil 9.00 Surfing 9.30 The History of Football 10.30 Trampolining 11.00 Eurosport News 11.30 Bodybuilding

SCREENSPORT
● Via the Astra satellite. 7.00am World Cup Figure Skating 8.00 Tenpin Bowling 8.30 Motor Sport 10.00 World Snooker Classics 12.00 Hearlem Basketball Week 2.30pm Boxing from the Forum 4.00 Sport en France 5.00 Motor Sport Rallycross 6.00 Argentinian Football 7.00 Tenpin Bowling 7.45 Tenpin Bowling 8.15 Live Haarlem Basketball Week 11.00 Ice Hockey: USA v Soviet Union

MTV
● Via the Astra satellite. 6.00am Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE
● Via the Astra satellite. 10.00am Everyday Workout 10.30 Search for Tomorrow 10.55 Coffee Break 11.00 Simply Marvellous 11.25 Spain Spain Cookery 11.35 The Edge of Night 12.00 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.50pm Style File 1.00 Great American Gameshows 2.10 Divorce Court 2.30 Remington Steele 3.30 Lifestyle Plus 3.40 Telemart 4.05 Great American Gameshows 5.20 Tea Break 5.30 WKRP in Cincinnati 6.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 8.00 JSTV 10.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 12.00 Satellite Jukebox

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
● Via the Marco Polo satellite. 12.25pm Lottery: A sweepstake courier searches for the winners of a lottery
1.50 The Movie Show
2.25 Three Hats for Lisa: An Italian film star (Sophie Hardy) has a penchant for hats
4.20 Where the River Runs Black. A jungle orphan is raised by freshwater dolphins
6.10 Intimate Betrayal: A wife discovers that her husband is not all he seems to be
8.00 Fletch Lives. Journalist Chevy Chase becomes entangled in a murder mystery
10.00 'Night Mother. Drama about a suicidal daughter
11.45 Kidnapped. A woman joins forces with an agent to rescue her sister who has been kidnapped by child pornographers
1.35am Appointment with Death: An Agatha Christie whodunit. Ends at 3.35

THE SPORTS CHANNEL
● Via the Marco Polo satellite. 1.25pm Sportsdesk 1.30 Racing 2.00 Scottish Football 4.00 Celebrity Tennis 5.00 NFL Review 1990 6.00 Sportsdesk 6.30 American Wrestling 7.30 Sportsdesk 8.00 The Main Event: World Heavyweight Boxing 10.00 Sportsdesk 10.30 On Wheels 11.30 Racing 12.00 Sportsdesk 12.30am Boxing

THE POWER STATION
● Via the Marco Polo satellite. 7.00am Twenty-two hours of rock and pop

RADIO 3

Midnight-7.05am Test Match Special (MW only): Australia v England. The second day of the second Test
6.55am Weather and News Headlines (FM only)
7.00 Christmas in Paris: Perotin (Beata viscera; Dum sigillum); D'Aquin (Noël XI and XII)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert: Vivaldi (Concerto in C); Dvořák (Polonaise in E flat); Rachmaninov (Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini); Brahms (Hungarian Dances Nos 1-4)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week: Offenbach (Allegro, Suite for Two Cellos No 1, Monsieur Choufleuri: Monte Carlo PO)
9.35 Airs and Graces: Music from the courts of Ferdinando de' Medici, Frederick the Great and two Holy Roman Emperors: Maximilian I and Leopold II. Bendinelli, arr Keyte (Fanfare); Malvezzi/Cavalieri (Intermedio VI, from 1589 Intermedi for La Pellegrina); Bach (Three-part Ricercar, The Musical Offering); Heinrich Isaac/Ludwig Senfl (Mass of St John the Evangelist); Bach (Trio-Sonata from the Musical Offering), Mozart (Overture, La clemenza di Tito)
11.15 USSR SO performs Rimsky-Korsakov (Russian Easter Festival Overture, Op 36); Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 4 in G minor, Op 40); Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 1 in G minor, Op 13, Winter Daydreams, incl 12.05pm Interval Reading
1.00pm News
1.05 Chopin (Introduction and Polonaise in C, Op 3; Grand duo in E; Cello Sonata in G minor, Op 65) (r)
2.00 Envy, Hatred and Malice: Rodney Milnes concludes his exploration of the less endearing traits displayed by operatic characters (r)
2.30 A Theme and Variations: ECO under Somary; USSR Russian Chorus under Sveshnikov perform Arensky's Variations on a Theme of Tchaikovsky and the song The Legend, the theme on which it is based
2.55 The Drama of Wenceslas: With the Oil of Peace and the Palm of Virtue. Performed in Prague in 1723, this melodrama portrays the royal and saintly qualities of St Wenceslas, the patron of modern Czechoslovakia, who was a tenth-century King of Bohemia. Musica Antiqua Köln, Rheinische Kantorei under Goebel perform music by Jan Dismas Zelenka
4.45 All the World's a Globe: Episode 3
5.00 Bath Festival 1990: The pianist Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich plays Mozart (Sonata in E flat, K 282); Chopin (Nocturne, Op 48 No 2; Three Mazurkas, Op 56; Polonaise, Op 26 No 2); Schumann (Bunte Blätter, Op 99); Beethoven (Sonata in C minor, Op 111)
6.25 BBC Scottish SO performs David Dorward (Golden City); Liszt (Festklänge)
7.00 News
7.05 Wolpert Coversations: Other Minds. Gerald Holton of Harvard University talks to Lewis Wolpert (r)
7.30 Visitors to the Proms: Cleveland Orchestra performs Beethoven (Grosse Fuge); Lutoslawski (Concerto for orchestra); Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A), incl 8.15 Interval Reading
9.10 Advice to Eastern Europe:
● CHOICE: The advice, in Richard Nelson's play, is offered by a self-exiled American in London (Colin Stinton), briefly the custodian of a visiting Czech (Edita Brychta) who is planning a sequel to the *Three Sisters*, to be filmed in the United States which she sees as Golden Opportunity land, both for herself and Chekhov's three celebrated siblings. In essence, the advice is: it's not always true that the grass is always greener in other gardens. Nelson's play is remorselessly cultural and, less overtly, political. It is recommended to us as a comedy. But then, puzzlingly, so is the *Three Sisters*
10.00 Music in Our Time: Birmingham Contemporary Music Group under Elgar Howarth performs John Woolrich (Lending Wings); Jonathan Lloyd (Symphony No 5) 11.00 The Music Maker (r)
11.30 Composers of the Week: Handel (r)
11.55-7.05am Test Match Special (MW only): Australia v England. The third day of the second Test from Melbourne
12.30-12.35am News (FM only)

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM
5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing, Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day (s) 6.30 News; Conversation Piece: Sue MacGregor meets the historical novelist Philippa Gregory (r)
7.00 Today, incl 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55 Weather 8.43 People Who Say Goodbye, by P.Y. Betts. Read by Peggy Mason (1 of 8) (s) 8.58 Weather
9.00 News
9.05 No Milk Today, the Street Has Gone Away: In the second of two programmes, the Tritherbert holidaymakers get into the Spanish way of life
9.35 Punters' Progress. Past punters join Susan Marling to update their reports
10.00 News; Smash of the Day: Does the Team Think? Classic comedy from the archives starring Jimmy Edwards and Arthur Askey (r)
10.30 Morning Story: Heard It Through the Grapevine, by Christina Prado
10.45 An Act of Worship (s)
11.00 News; Far from the Madding Crowd: Sergeant Troy. The fourth of a six-part dramatisation of Thomas Hardy's novel (s)
12.00 News; Something to Celebrate: Part 4: A queen is crowned in Puddletown
12.25pm Flying the Flag: Alex Shearer's wry observation of East-West diplomacy, starring Dinsdale Landen (final part) (s) (r) 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping
2.00 News; Woman's Hour: The Phantom of Svengali. Jenni Murray talks to Michael Winner and Beryl Reid, among others, to discover the true meaning of the mysterious muse who guides and enhances a protégée's career
3.00 News; Hercule Poirot's Christmas, by Agatha Christie. This Christmas Eve, someone is planning revenge on Simeon Lee (Cyril Luckham), who is regarded as a monster by all and especially by his family. With Peter Sallis (s) (r)
4.20 Ad Lib: Robert Robinson talks with a distinguished group of actors in the Garrick Club (r)
5.00 PM, with Valerie Singleton
5.30 Reading Aloud: Struan Rodger reads *Cricketing Heroes*, by Neville Cardus (s) (r) 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.15 The Village: Life in a small rural community
6.30 Screenplay: A seasonal edition of the movie panel show, hosted by Iain Johnstone. With Dick Vosburgh, Barbara Windsor, Barry Cryer and Robin Ray (s)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Today's the Day: Time to Go Home. Elsie McKean leaves her home after 30 years and moves into an old people's home (r)
7.45 Concerto: In the last of three programmes, the cellist Robert Cohen talks to June Knox-Mawer and introduces some of his recordings (s) (r)
8.45 Tuning In: The Voice Beautiful. The final part of Michael Bentine's in-depth analysis of wireless (r)
9.15 Kaleidoscope: Sentimental Values. Mark Steyn investigates sentimentality in the arts (s) (r)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight (s) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight (s)
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: In My Wildest Dreams, by Leslie Thomas (11 of 12) (r)
11.00 Fear on 4: The Yellow Wallpaper.
● CHOICE: The return of the Man in Black, Mark 2 (Edward de Souza), in a new series of shockers is marked by Charlotte Perkins Gilman's tale of a doctor's wife whose dementia takes the form of an obsessive conviction that what is happening *behind* her wallpaper is just as ghastly as what is happening *on* it. Anna Massey has the microphone to herself, and she is self-sufficiency personified (s)
11.30 The Tingle Factor: The actress Joanna Lumley is Robin Ray's guest (s) (r)
12.00-12.43am News, incl 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shipping

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/ 247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. World Service: MW 648kHz/463m. Jazz FM 102.2. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; Melody FM 104.9.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. 5.00am Gary King 7.30 The Breakfast Show 10.00 Simon Bates 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Gary Davies 4.00 Mark Goodier 5.30 News '90 6.00 Mark Goodier 7.30 The Christmas Concerts: Billy Joel, recorded at Wembley Arena 9.00 The Man Ezeke's Sunshine Show 11.00-2.00am Richard Skinner

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 4.00am Steve Madden 5.30 Roger Royle 7.30 Bob Holness 9.30 Katie Boyle 11.00 Jimmy Young 1.05pm David Jacobs 2.00 Debbie Thrower 4.00 Mr Mistoffolees to Miss Saigon: The last decade of the West End musical (1 of 2) 6.00 Be My Love: The career of Mario Lanza 7.00 The News Huddlines Christmas Cracker 7.30 Wally Whyton 9.00 A Merry Christmas from Manchester (r) 10.00 Ken Bruce 12.05am Rolf Harris 1.00-4.00 Bill Rennells with Night Ride

RADIO 5

6.00am World Service 6.30 Morning Edition 9.00 Take Five 10.25 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 10.45 Celebrity Stories: The Towtown Mystery (r) 11.00 Sport; Radio Ulster's Christmas Show 11.30 The Health Show: Healthy resolutions for 1991, incl 12.00 News; Sport 12.30pm Cult Heroes: Dr Who (r) 1.00 Sport 1.05 European Concert 2.00 Sport 2.05 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (broadcast at 10.25am) 2.20 Racing from Kempton Park. 2.20 Top Rank Christmas Hurdle Race 2.30 World Service, incl 3.00 Sport 4.00 Sport. All These Things: Why are American writer Margy Rocklin's favourite buildings being demolished? 4.35 Five Aside 7.20 What's Wrong With Civilizashun? 7.35 Christmas Poetry (r) 8.05 Celebrity Stories: The Wind in the Willows 8.30 Fanshawe on 5 9.00 Nightbeat 9.30 Eastern Beat, incl 10.00, 11.00 Sport 11.05 World Service 11.58-12.05am Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Morgenmagazin 5.35 News in German; Headlines in English and French 5.47 Press Review 5.52 Seasonal Music 5.58 Weather and Travel News 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 7.00 News 7.09 24 Hours 7.30 Storm Clouds Over the Himalayas 8.00 News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 Good Books 8.30 John Peel 9.00 News 9.09 Review of the British Press 9.15 The World Today 9.30 Financial News; Sports Roundup 9.45 Network UK 10.01 Assignment 10.30 A Taste of Christmas Soul 11.00 News 11.09 News About Britain 11.15 The Farming World 11.30 Midi Magazine 12.00 Newsreel 12.15pm Multitrack 2. Top 20 of 1990 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 News 1.09 24 Hours 1.30 Network UK 1.45 Jazz Now and Then 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Off the Shelf: Christmas Chillers 2.45 Recording of the Week 3.00 Newsreel 3.15 Music for a While with Richard Baker 4.00 News 4.09 News About Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 News 5.09 Looking Homewards 5.15 The World Today 5.30 Londres Soir 6.15 BBC English 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 News 8.09 The World Today 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Meridian 9.01 Sports Roundup 9.15 Global Concerns 9.30 The Carol Composer 10.00 Newshour 11.00 News 11.05 Looking Homewards 11.10 Financial News 11.15 Music Review 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am The Great Musicals 1.01 Outlook 1.25 Financial News 1.30 Jazz Now and Then 1.45 Global Concerns 2.00 News 2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15 Seven Seas 2.30 O Americo, Americo and Mozart 3.00 News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 The World Today 3.30 Focus on Faith Special: Hot Foot from Heaven 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 The World Today 4.45 News and Press Review in German

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TV CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

Chilean judge 'convinced UK journalist was murdered'

By Nicholas Watt

THE Chilean judge examining the death of a British journalist in Santiago last March while investigating alleged illegal arms deals has reportedly recommended that the case be upgraded from sudden death to premeditated murder.

Tony Moyle, father of the journalist Jonathan Moyle, said from his home in Devon yesterday that a source in Chile had told him the judge, Alejandro Solis, was convinced his son had not only been murdered but that his death did not have a simple explanation. The body of Moyle, aged 28, editor of *Defence Helicopter World*, was found hanging by his shirt, with a pillowcase over his head, from the clothes rail in the closet of his Santiago hotel bedroom on 31 March.

Chilean officials initially said that he had committed suicide, but this theory was later rejected. The cramped closet was eight inches shorter than his body and the door had been shut from the outside. A post-mortem examination found sedatives in Moyle's stomach which he had not been known to take.

Tony Moyle's solicitor in Chile is suing a Chilean arms producer, Industrias Cardoen, for alleged responsibilty for the death. Moyle was investigating reports that Iraq had allegedly ordered 50 of the company's helicopters.

Mr Moyle also claims that the company had been making the Stonefish mine, a secret British weapon. British naval intelligence has interviewed him over these allegations.

Mr Moyle said that a man who wants to remain anonymous had accused a former employee of a company Jonathan Moyle was investigating of threatening him the night before his body was found. Mr Moyle added: "I even know the words he used, but I cannot say more about it because the situation is very delicate."

Mr Moyle said that if the judge's recommendation to upgrade the examination was accepted it would entitle him to cross-examine people under oath.

Although the Chilean government now supports the murder theory, Mr Moyle said the British embassy in Santiago was "coy" about saying Jonathan had been killed. He claimed this was because his son had discovered that a large British arms company, which he would not name, had broken various arms embargoes and had been doing business with Iraq and South Africa.

David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North, said last night that he would be tabling questions for the foreign secretary on alleged Chilean arms sales to Iraq "It is essential that the full truth is known about this murky business and that the British government should make the strongest possible representations to the Chilean authorities", he said.

Jonathan Moyle: 'Threatened on eve of his body's discovery'

Food for Russians disappears

Continued from page 1

Moscow Another 30 tons are due to be sent early in the new year under the appeal run by Jubilee Campaign, a London-based Christian human rights group.

Last night, however, the organisation's director Danny Smith said that the disappearance could jeopardise future consignments "What happened today is extremely mysterious, and a terrific shame," he said.

"We have had an amazing response from the public with people volunteering to go out to the Soviet Union to help When this sort of thing happens, it is extremely frustrating."

Colin Simmons, the airfield coordinator for the shipping agents Gatwick Handling, confirmed last night that all the aid destined for the Soviet Union had left on the Aeroflot flight on Tuesday "The cargo is certainly not at Stansted any more, everything here went on that plane," he said

Express Service, the Soviet freight forwarding company which volunteered to process the gifts, said the aircraft arrived fully loaded, apparently with a mixture of humanitarian and commercial cargo destined for Minsk, but the flight manifest made no mention of food for Moscow.

A workman clearing overgrown graves at Kensal Green, a first step in the huge renovation scheme planned by the owner and the friends of the cemetery

£1m plan to restore cemetery's romantic past

By Simon Tait
Arts Correspondent

ENGLAND's first private cemetery, Kensal Green, is to be restored in a £1 million scheme to create a memorial park to rival Père-Lachaise in Paris. The newly-formed Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery have drawn up a landscape plan to restore two chapels, one for Anglicans and the second for dissenters.

Paul Hoppen, London grants officer for English Heritage which is to help with the project, said: "It is an admirable ambition to return the cemetery to its romantic atmosphere in a sensible and controlled way." English Heritage will provide a grant but most of the cash will be raised by the friends.

The owner of the cemetery, the General Cemetery Company, has already cleared many graves on the 75-acre site. Michael Nodes, company chairman, said: "We want to recreate the original ambience of the cemetery and we want the friends to take responsibility for that." The cemetery built in 1833 as society's "alternative" resting place, was landscaped by Richard Forrest and the chapels were designed by John Griffiths. In 1842, a visitor wrote in *Ainsworth's Magazine*: "What an escape from the atmosphere of London burial places to the air of Kensal Green – from the choked charnel-house to that verdant wide expanse, studded with tombs of infinite shapes, and stone-marked graves, covered with flowers of every brilliant dye."

The Duke of Sussex's burial at Kensal Green in 1843 set the seal on the cemetery's social status. He was joined by "members of more than two hundred of the first families in the kingdom", according to an old handbook.

Thackeray and Trollope are also buried at Kensal Green, along with three generations of the Brunel family; Babbage, the father of computers; Blondin the tight-rope walker; Wilkie Collins; Leigh Hunt; and many other prominent people.

Julian Litten of the Victoria and Albert Museum, secretary of the friends' advisory committee, said: "This cemetery is almost a landscaped dictionary of national biography It was never meant to be a place of death but a live memorial park for us to enjoy."

Although past its glory, in 1914 the cemetery was still sufficiently idyllic for G.K. Chesterton to write in his poem *The Rolling English Road*:

For there is good news yet
to hear,
and fine things to be seen.
Before we go to paradise,
by way of Kensal Green.

Romania deports ex-king for 'cheap stunt'

From Tim Judah in Bucharest

THE Romanian government yesterday publicly criticised former King Michael, aged 69, whom it deported in the early hours of the morning after he paid a brief and bizarre visit to his homeland. Bogdan Baltazer, a government spokesman, said: "He came like a thief, lying and physically forcing his way into the country .. it was a cheap stunt."

Last night the main extra-parliamentary opposition group, the Civic Alliance, condemned the "abusive expulsion" and called on parliament to invite the king on an official visit to Romania.

King Michael, who was forced to abdicate by the communists in December 1947, lives in exile in Switzerland. On the evening of Christmas day, he and his wife flew into Bucharest international airport on a private plane. Soon afterwards he left the airport under the impression that he had received a visa. However, just as he was about to be driven off, officials asked for the passports back, saying that they had to put extra stamps into them. An hour later, the government broadcast a communiqué saying that the king had entered the country illegally.

After leaving the airport, the king visited friends in Bucharest and, after problems with a broken-down car, the royal party left for the monastery of Curtea De Arges, the site of a family tomb.

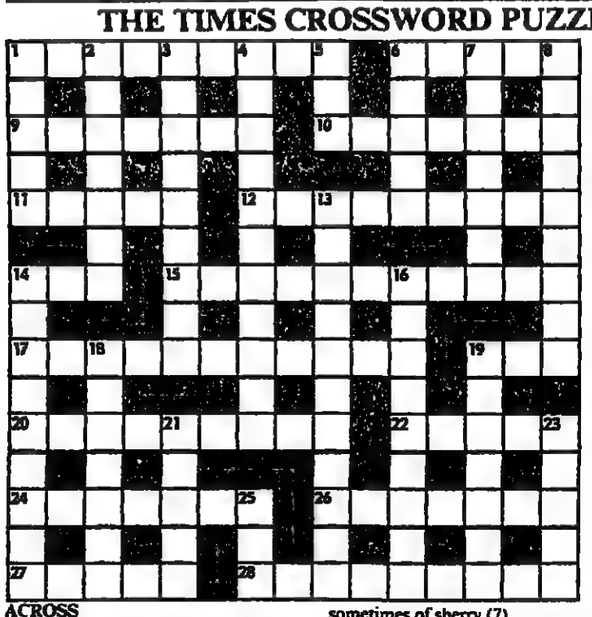
Some 62 miles out of the capital, the king was stopped at a road-block. "It was like nazi Germany," Princess Margarita, the king's eldest daughter, said in an interview yesterday. "There were soldiers with machineguns, Securitate, and men that I can only describe as yobs." She added that they were then escorted under guard to Bucharest's Otopeni airport.

The royal party was flown in a military plane to Switzerland, less than 12 hours after they had arrived. As he left, King Michael described his deportation as "a rather sorry state of affairs".

The government claims that he was expelled because he entered the country without a proper visa. Mr Baltazer said: "He came on a Danish diplomatic passport. Entry visas for these passports cannot be obtained at the airport." But Princess Margarita said: "That's nonsense. I'm here now on a Danish diplomatic passport and I've never had any trouble getting a visa at the airport."

Man in the news, page 7

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,487



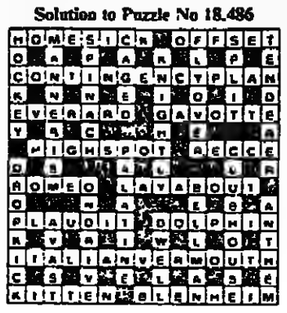
ACROSS

1 The servant standing behind the 1st Earl of Ypres is a foreigner (9).
6 Doctor and accountant drinking hot coffee (5).
9 It's said to guard part of a drill moving around (7).
10 After formation of army pop musicians (7).
11 The girl outside is of this fibre! (5).
12 Laziness causes no decline, oddly enough (9).
14 Might presently exclude border from violent action (3).
15 Police in terrible danger – one is thrown in lake (11).
17 Unsmiling Australian working in God's acre (5-6).
19 It introduces a large number down in the dumps (3).
20 Republican leader given donation out of the state (9).
22 Gather for a service (5).
24 Starts to offer lots of *rosé*, or sometimes of sherry (7).
26 Dance for which Shakespeare wrote this? (7).
27 A plaintive song, say, in the old isle (5).
28 Pie-filling many in the pit encounter, we hear (9).

DOWN

1 Source of power used by Eliot's mill to make silk (5).
2 Key singer carried by motor yacht to a diplomat's residence (7).
3 Record animal on a tree-trunk for listeners (9).
4 Philosopher on island displayed anger at his riches... (11).
5 ... and not in an orderly manner! (3).
6 Cat extremely useful to a person of influence (5).
7 Bring out leader of refrain, being once such a singer (7).
8 Hang on without her being upset, understand? (9).
13 He makes plans, moving about on board (11).
14 Margaret Herbert has one for distant communication (9)
16 Preserve Sandhurst youth in West (9).
18 Dreadful article written before you and I part (7).
19 Law, say, restricting you in Paris (7).
21 Key used by Novello coming to end of play (5).
23 Place in which he produced a newspaper (5).
25 German physicist mostly serving a British monarch? (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,486



Concise Crossword, page 13

WORD-WATCHING

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

CATAPLASM
a. A poultice or compress
b. A marine disaster
c. A twin-keeled class of yacht

PLANXTY
a. The bog myrtle
b. A subdivision of the phalanx
c. A slow Irish jig

EASSEL
a. Paint solvent
b. A nightcap
c. Eastwards

SAGATHY
a. A great and good man
b. The flowering basil
c. A woollen stuff

Answers on page 16, column 1

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
C London (within N & S Circs)	731
M-ways/roads M4 M1	732
M-ways/roads M1 Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T M23	734
M-ways/roads M23 M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times

WEATHER

Another very windy day with gale or severe gale force winds over most of the British Isles. The strongest winds will be in the north and west and will ease later in the day. There will be a mixture of sunshine and showers in most parts, with the showers heaviest and most frequent in the north and west. The showers will fall as sleet or snow in Scotland and over high ground. Outlook: staying windy and unsettled

ABROAD

MIDDAY b-thunder d-drizzle fg-fog, s-sun, sl-sleet sn-snow f-fair c-cloud r-rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	10	50	c	Majorca	15	59	f
Akrotiri	15	59	f	Malaga	16	61	f
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Malta	15	59	f
Algiers	12	54	c	Melb'rne	19	66	f
Amst'dm	5	41	c	Mexico C*	19	66	s
Athens	10	50	c	Miami*	24	75	c
Bahrain	-	-	-	Milan	0	32	c
Barbados*	30	86	f	Montreal*	-8	18	f
Barcelona	12	54	f	Moscow	-7	19	s
Belgrade	6	43	f	Munich	3	37	c
Berlin	2	36	c	Nairobi	25	77	f
Bermuda*	22	72	s	Naples	12	54	c
Biarritz	11	52	c	N Delhi	20	68	s
Boston*	11	52	c	N York*	-1	30	s
Brussels	5	41	r	Nice	10	50	c
Budapest	0	32	c	Oslo	5	41	r
B Aires*	27	81	s	Paris	6	43	r
Cairo	19	66	s	Peking	-2	28	s
Cape Tn	29	84	s	Perth	24	75	f
C'blanca	14	57	r	Prague	-1	30	c
Chicago*	-4	25	f	Reykjvik	-4	25	f
Ch'church	19	66	s	Rhodes	13	55	f
Cologne	6	43	c	Rio de J	27	81	f
C'phagn	4	39	c	Riyadh	17	63	s
Corfu	9	48	r	Rome	14	57	f
Dublin	8	46	r	Salzburg	1	34	c
Dubrovnik	12	54	f	S F'risco*	6	43	s
Faro	16	61	s	Santiago*	31	88	s
Florence	8	46	c	S Paulo*	25	77	f
Frankfurt	5	41	c	Seoul	-3	18	s
Funchal	16	61	r	Sing'por	30	86	s
Geneva	7	45	s	St'kholm	3	37	c
Gibraltar	15	59	f	Strasb'rg	7	45	f
Helsinki	-2	28	d	Sydney	24	75	c
Hong K	21	70	s	Tangier	15	59	c
Innsbrck	0	32	sn	Tel Aviv	16	61	f
Istanbul	9	48	f	Tenerife	20	68	f
Jeddah	30	86	s	Tokyo	9	48	c
Jo'burg*	26	79	s	Toronto*	-6	21	sn
Karachi	-	-	-	Tunis	14	57	f
L Palmas	20	68	s	Valencia	15	59	f
Le Tquet	6	43	r	Vanc'ver*	-1	30	sn
Lisbon	15	59	f	Venice	3	37	d
Locarno	2	36	fg	Vienna	-1	30	c
L Angeles*	13	55	s	Warsaw	1	34	f
Luxembg	3	37	c	Wash'ton*	0	32	s
Luxor	27	81	s	Wel'nton	19	66	s
Madrid	6	43	fg	Zurich	5	41	s

* denotes figures are latest available

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.1	.58	7	45	rain
Anglesey	1.7	.54	7	45	rain
Belfast	0.6	.35	5	41	sleet
Birmingham	2.1	.51	8	46	thundr
Blackpool	0.7	.58	7	45	rain
Bognor Regis	-	.38	9	48	rain
Brighton	-	.34	8	46	hail
Bristol	1.5	.54	10	50	rain
Cardiff	2.3	.38	7	45	hail
Clacton	-	.21	7	45	rain
Douglas	1.0	.73	6	43	rain
Edinburgh	0.1	.07	6	43	shower
Eskdalemuir	-	.104	5	41	rain
Exmouth	1.1	.47	11	52	shower
Folkestone	-	.33	8	46	rain
Glasgow	0.8	.123	7	45	rain
Guernsey	0.2	.55	11	52	rain
Hastings	-	.47	8	46	pole
Jersey	0.1	.46	11	52	hail
Kinloss	1.1	.02	7	45	bright
Leeds	-	.30	9	48	rain
Lerwick	-	.37	7	45	rain
London	-	.24	9	48	rain
Lowestoft	-	.18	7	45	rain
Manchester	2.2	.48	8	46	rain
Margate	X	.29	8	46	rain
Morecambe	0.4	.53	7	45	rain
Newcastle	X	.28	7	45	rain
Newquay	1.1	.34	9	48	shower
Nottingham	1.7	.30	8	46	thundr
Plymouth	1.8	.39	11	52	shower
Poole	1.2	.101	10	50	thundr
Scarborough	0.4	.37	7	45	shower
Scilly Isles	1.7	.54	9	48	hail
St. Ives	1.1	.77	9	48	shower
Stornoway	-	.53	7	45	shower
Swanage	1.0	.52	8	46	thundr
Teignmouth	1.1	.63	12	54	sunny
Tiree	0.5	.31	8	46	hail
Torquay	1.5	.63	9	48	rain
Weymouth	1.2	.44	11	52	rain
Wick	-	.02	7	45	rain

These are Tuesday's figures

LONDON

Yesterday Temp max 6 am to 6 pm, 13C (55F) min 6 pm to 6 am 5C (41F) Humidity 6 pm, 73 per cent Rain 24hr to 6 pm 0.24 in Sun 24 hr to 6 pm nil Bar mean sea level 6 pm, 984.0 millibars rising
1,000 millibars=29.53in

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Tuesday Highest day temp Penzance Cornwall 11C (52F) lowest day max Eskdalemuir Dumfries and Galloway 5C (43F) highest rainfall Eskdalemuir 0.4 in highest sunshine Leuchars Fife 5.4 hr

MANCHESTER

Yesterday Temp max 6 am to 6 pm, 12C (54F) min 6 pm to 6 am 3C (37F) Rain 24hr to 6 pm 0.50 in Sun 24 hr to 6 pm 0.2 in

GLASGOW

Yesterday Temp max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F) min 6 pm to 6 am 3C (37F) Rain 24hr to 6 pm, 0.62 in Sun 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 hr

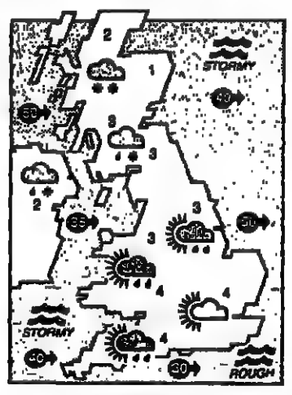
TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

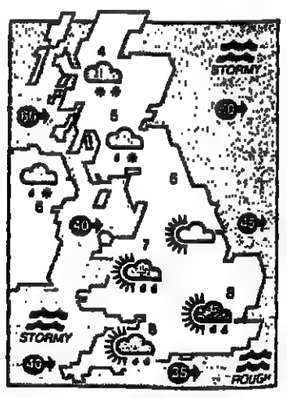
Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereffds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times

AM



PM



YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday c. cloud, f. fair, r. rain, s. sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	7	45	c	Guernsey	11	52	r
B'mingham	11	52	r	Inverness	5	41	r
Blackpool	11	52	s	Jersey	10	50	r
Bristol	12	54	r	London	9	48	c
Cardiff	12	54	d	M'nchster	10	50	c
Edinburgh	9	48	c	Newcastle	7	45	r
Glasgow	8	46	f	R'nldsway	10	50	c

LIGHTING-UP

London 3.57 pm to 8.06 am
Bristol 4.07 pm to 8.15 am
Edinburgh 3.44 pm to 8.44 am
Manchester 3.55 pm to 8.25 am
Penzance 4.26 pm to 8.21 am

Sun rises: 8.6 am — Sun sets: 3.57 pm
Moon sets: 2.51 am — Moon rises: 12.7 pm
Full moon December 31

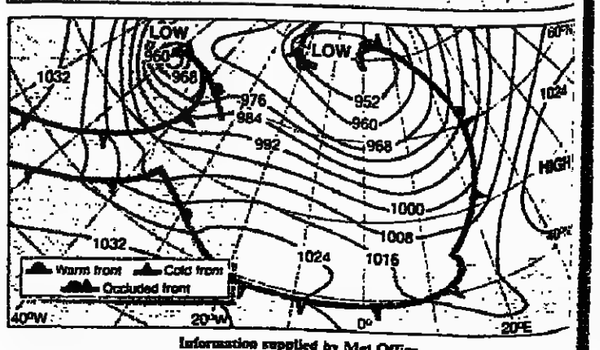
HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	8.26	6.0	9.32	6.1
Aberdeen	8.54	3.5	9.0	3.8
Avonmouth	1.41	10.6	2.29	10.9
Belfast	6.5	3.1	6.24	3.2
Cardiff	1.26	9.9	2.14	10.1
Devonport	12.20	4.5	12.48	4.6
Dover	5.54	5.8	6.35	5.6
Falmouth			12.18	4.4
Glasgow	7.56	4.3	8.22	4.3
Harwich	6.26	3.6	7.23	3.5
Holyhead	5.39	4.6	6.0	4.9
Hull	12.49	6.4	1.44	6.1
Ilfracombe	12.36	7.3	1.16	7.5
King's Lynn	12.51	5.5	1.54	5.2
Leith	9.56	4.7	10.14	4.9

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	6.14	7.8	6.43	8.1
Lowestoft	4.3	2.3	5.30	2.1
Margate	6.45	4.2	7.42	4.1
Milford Haven	12.56	5.5	1.33	5.5
Newquay			12.33	5.9
Oban	12.25	3.1	1.36	3.4
Penzance			12.5	4.6
Portland	1.22	1.8	1.52	1.6
Portsmouth	6.33	4.2	7.3	4.0
Shoreham	6.3	5.3	6.40	5.2
Southampton	6.9	4.0	6.37	3.9
Swansea	1.3	7.6	1.42	7.3
Tees	11.16	4.4	11.32	4.7
Walton-on-Naze	6.25	3.7	7.21	3.8

Tide in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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BUSINESS

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THURSDAY DECEMBER 27 1990

Auditors move to curb fudging accounts

By Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

THE accountancy profession is to set up a body designed to stop companies exploiting loopholes in accountancy regulations to dress up their accounts. Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the new Financial Reporting Council, is expected to announce soon a division in the council, termed the emerging or urgent issues task force.

The move, one of the most significant by the FRC, is aimed at preventing companies starting accounting techniques off their own bat. The FRC is acting after controversies over brand valuation and off-balance-sheet financing, which spread in the absence of rulings by the authorities setting accounting standards.

Typically, one company may persuade its auditors on the basis of counsel's opinion to accept a creative new form of accounting. This is taken as a precedent by other companies and their auditors without the practice being approved officially.

The FRC wants to prevent ideas used by one company being taken as a precedent.

The task force will operate under the FRC umbrella alongside the Accounting Standards Board and the review panel, which aims to monitor and enforce the use of correct standards in company accounts.

When a new accounting technique is used by a public company, it will be referred as soon as possible to the task force, which will give guidance to other companies. The aim is to indicate the FRC's approach to the new technique, pending full examination and acceptance or rejection.

Small firms want more investment

INVESTMENT is the key to economic recovery in the new year, according to Britain's 250 small business organisations represented by the the National Chamber of Trade. The chamber has presented a series of ideas for the Chancellor's spring Budget. It believes inflation will fall by the middle of next year if investment is encouraged as follows:

☐ A tax-free investment reserve for development.
☐ Extension of development allowances to retail stores and service buildings.
☐ Raising the threshold for small firms' corporation tax.
☐ Extension of the Business Expansion Scheme to enable proprietors to invest in their own businesses.
☐ Switching education costs to central taxation to cut poll tax and business rate demands.

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8750 (–0.0090)
German mark
2.8875 (+0.0021)
Exchange index
92.7 (–0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1678.9 (–9.5)
FT-SE 100
2156.3 (–8.1)
New York Dow Jones
2635.64 (+14.35)*

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 14%†
3-month Interbank 13 15/16-13⅞%†
3-month eligible bills: 13½-13⅜%†
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 6½%*
3-month Treasury Bills 6.49-6.48%*
30-year bonds 104⅝-104 11/16*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.8750†	£: $1.8865*
£: DM2.8875†	$: DM1.5305*
£: SwFr2.4600†	$: SwFr1.3063*
£: FFr9.7875†	$: FFr5.1930*
£: Yen254.81†	$: Yen136.00*
£: Index 92.7†	$: Index 82.3†
ECU £n/a	SDR $n/a
£: ECUn/a	£: SDRn/a

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $382.00† pm $n/a
close $383.00-384.00† (£204.25-205.25†)
New York:
Comex $384.75-385.25*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) ..... $26.70 bbl†
† Denotes Monday's close
* Denotes latest trading price

CBI urges Newton to abandon sick pay changes

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE government should withdraw proposed legislation changing statutory sick pay arrangements, the Confederation of British Industry says today. Business leaders argue that the planned law will disrupt companies' operations and could, in the long term, add £1 billion to employers' annual costs.

CBI leaders, who claim that separate government measures could lead to the loss of up to £9 a week for three million people next year because of changes in sick pay rates, say that Tony Newton, the social security secretary, should withdraw the statutory sick pay bill before it reaches its committee stage in the House of Lords on January 14. Privately, some CBI leaders believe the bill may be withdrawn, though publicly the government insisted yesterday that there was no prospect of such a move.

Business leaders are angry that they were not consulted about the bill. They are also annoyed because they believe the bill was rushed through its Commons stages in a week, when public attention was focused on the contest for the leadership of the Conservative party.

Under the terms of the bill, which was introduced with the autumn statement last month, Mr Newton intends to change the system, under which employers can, if necessary, deduct 100 per cent of amounts paid out in statutory sick pay from their national insurance contributions and PAYE.

The bill proposes to alter this rate to 80 per cent, though the government is to reduce employers' national insurance contribution rates so that any overall additional cost to employers resulting from the changes is substantially reduced.

In addition to the bill, the government is altering the threshold of the lower of the two levels of sick pay, which the government says will help protect the lower paid. The two changes will reduce public spending by about £280 million, and employers' national insurance contributions will be reduced by more than £200 million.

The CBI says that the changes will place a burden on employers, create uncertainty and delay moves by companies towards improving private, occupational sick pay schemes, since they will feel they are paying twice for sick pay while receiving only a reduced return from the statutory scheme.

Richard Price, CBI deputy director-general, said that a system that worked well, to the advantage of employers, employees and the taxpayer, was being changed for little apparent reason.

CBI leaders believe that a further proposal in the bill, which would allow the government to vary the 80 per cent rate without further primary legislation, is the thin end of the wedge and indicates further changes.

Mr Price said: "We see no reason in logic why one should substitute approximate justice for precise justice unless there is some further proposal in mind."

The CBI believes that the statutory sick pay scheme could go the way of the redundancy rebate scheme in the Eighties, which was fully paid for by national insurance contributions but from which the benefits have been removed. If that happens to statutory sick pay, the CBI says, employers could face additional costs of at least £1 billion a year.

Mr Newton has so far rejected the CBI's arguments, and the social security department said in a statement: "The government has no plans to withdraw the bill." Because of the growth of occupational schemes, the statutory sick pay rates bear no relation to the money received by most employees. The department said: "The bill makes a modest shift in the balance of provision for short-term sickness between the state and business."

Icahn anger as Pan Am shuns merger talks

From Philip Robinson in New York

TALKS over the $370 million merger between Pan American Corporation and TWA, the rival airlines, looked on the brink of collapse last night amid a wave of allegations and bickering.

The dispute was prompted by the failure of Pan Am executives to attend Christmas Eve merger talks with TWA, followed by TWA learning from newspaper reports that Pan Am is poised to sell its Boston-New York-Washington commuter shuttle route.

Analysts say any permanent breakdown of discussions would mean that the new key to Pan Am's survival would be the sale of its London routes to United Airlines in a deal worth $400 million.

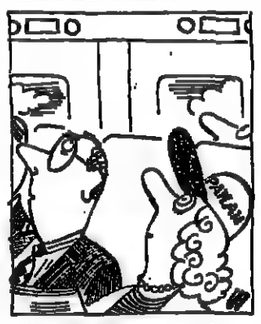
The $150 million proceeds expected from the sale of the East Coast shuttle would serve only as petty cash to buy more time for the struggling airline while American and British regulators argue over whether they will approve an ownership change of the Heathrow routes.

In what Pan Am has described as a list of "rambling thoughts", Carl Icahn, TWA's chairman and chief executive, says Pan Am's decision to sell the shuttle without discussion "demonstrates your lack of good faith interest in negotiating the merger of our airlines."

Mr Icahn warns Thomas Plaskett, Pan Am's chairman: "I urge you and your board to consider carefully your next step before you destroy the possibility of a Pan Am-TWA combination which might well be your airline's only hope."

Pan Am said last night: "The ball's in Mr Icahn's court. As far as we are concerned we are still talking but we are waiting for him to give us some firm proposals. We put the shuttle up for sale some months ago, I cannot see why this comes as a surprise to Mr Icahn. I cannot comment on reports it has been sold."

According to those close to the talks, Pan Am is thought to be ready to sell the shuttle to a combination of PacifiCorp, the $5 billion mining company based in Portland, Oregon, which will put up the money, and Northwest Airlines, the private debt-laden carrier that would run it.



"We shall soon be landing in Miami, where we have received a very acceptable offer for the aircraft."

Mr Icahn's letter continues: "You (Mr Plaskett) now appear ready to sell the shuttle and since you have not offered the shuttle to TWA for sale, I assume that . . . entrenchment of existing management will be the principle purpose of the transaction rather than something that might ultimately benefit your shareholders, employees and creditors as well as the travelling public.

"If you genuinely believe that a sale of the shuttle is the right answer for Pan Am then why wouldn't you offer to TWA, as part of a merger, the right to compete for the shuttle on the same terms an another buyer ?"

The letter discloses the two have been talking for almost 2½ months. On October 18, TWA offered Pan Am between $100 million and $125 million in a bridging loan as a first step towards a merger.

Mr Icahn goes on: "After reading the article on today's (December 24) edition of *The Wall Street Journal*, I believe I now understand why today's meeting was cancelled. You (Mr Plaskett) appear to be continuing on the same path that you followed when you sold your London routes to United for a price that has now been clearly demonstrated to be less than fair market value.

"It appears that you will go to any extremes to avoid the merger with us that you say in your letter would be advantageous."

ALAN WELLER

Boxing day blow: more signs than shoppers at a Texas Homecare store in Battersea, south London, yesterday

CMB expects profits fall

By Matthew Bond

PROFITS at CMB Packaging are likely to fall in the current year, according to Jean-Marie Descarpenteries, the company's president.

The company was formed in April 1989 by a merger of the Metalbox packaging business and the Carnaud company of France.

Under the terms of a deal, which was originally agreed in October 1988, Metalbox's packaging interests were sold to Carnaud for £780 million, with Metalbox retaining a 25.5 per cent interest in the enlarged group.

Both companies subsequently changed their names, with Metalbox becoming MB Group, and the enlarged Carnaud becoming CMB Packaging. However, merging the businesses has cost more than expected, M Descarpenteries said.

Net attributable profits are now expected to drop about 10 per cent, from Fr1.13 billion in 1989 to about Fr1 billion.

"Our estimations today call for a result of the order of Fr1 billion for 1990," M Descarpenteries said.

On Christmas Eve, CMB's shares, which are listed in London, fell 25p to 950p. They had reached 900p at one stage.

M Descarpenteries attributed the expected decline in CMB's net income to restructuring costs of about Fr400 million incurred since the merger. This expenditure was in addition to the Fr3.6 billion of normal investment, he said.

"The size of these costs was not entirely foreseeable. This was the worst surprise of the marriage with Metal Box," M Descarpenteries said. "At worst, we had expected Fr400 million for the two years."

For 1991, M Descarpenteries said the firm's priority would be to improve its results.

"The industrial investments made over the last two years absolutely must pay," he said.

Storms take toll of sales

THE storms that swept Britain kept many would be Boxing day shoppers at home.

Worst hit were the do-it-yourself stores, which tend to start the sales season a day early. Given the choice between an afternoon in front of the television or braving a windswept bypass, home improvements lost out. "It's kept us a lot quieter than last year," said the manager of a north London branch of B&Q, the Kingfisher subsidiary.

Nigel Whittaker, director of Kingfisher, said the company would not be able to quantify how sales had been affected until today.

Texas, B&Q, MFI and Magnet were among the retailers that took large advertisements in newspapers on Boxing Day

EIB loan of $180m eases way for new Airbus A321

By Neil Bennett

THE European Investment Bank is to lend $180 million to Airbus Industrie, the European aviation consortium, to help fund the development of its new jet, the Airbus A321.

The loan clears away one of the last hurdles for the introduction of the A321 by 1993. The aircraft will be an enlarged version of the A320 and seat 186 passengers, 36 more than the A320.

Plans for the A321 were confirmed in June 1989, and the consortium took its first order for the jet a year ago from Alitalia, the Italian airline. Airbus now has 74 orders and letters of intent for a further 185.

Lufthansa, the German airline, agreed to buy 20 aircraft and took options for a further 20 last summer. Deliveries are scheduled to begin in 1994.

The A321 is designed to fill a gap in Airbus's range, and is intended for use on high volume, short haul routes. It will compete directly with the Boeing 757-200. The A321 will have 40 per cent more cargo space than the A320.

This is the first time the European Investment Bank has supported Airbus directly, although it has lent to the consortium's members.

The bank has already loaned £200 million to British Aerospace to fund its participation in the development of the Airbus A330/340. BAe supplies the wings for Airbus, with the remaining work shared between Aerospatiale of France, Germany's Deutsche Airbus, and Casa in Spain.

The latest loan is an example of the EIB's growing importance in the funding of European industry.

West Industries and A&G agree to merge

By Our City Staff

WEST Industries and Audit & General are to merge in an agreed takeover valuing Audit & General at £1.95 million.

The two companies are similar in structure, combining small industrial businesses with property-related activities. The latter had been the companies' main source of profits until the recent decline in the property market. The £1.95 million price for A&G, agreed on Christmas Eve, compares with £8 million paid by Humberside Electronic Controls for the company in a reverse takeover two years ago. West Industries is offering a one for one share swap. Irrevocable acceptances by shareholders in A&G already total 58.4 per cent.

Full-year results for A&G, announced with the merger, confirm how difficult the property market has become. From last year's adjusted pre-tax profit of £1.3 million, A&G has tumbled to a pre-tax loss of £1.8 million. No final dividend is being paid (0.3p), although an interim dividend of 0.3p has already been paid.

Large salaries 'needed to retain talent and institutional memory'

Executive pay tops $1m at bankrupt Drexel

By Kurt Eichenwald
of the New York Times

SALARIES continue to collapse on Wall Street, but at Drexel Burnham Lambert, the former powerhouse that filed for bankruptcy protection this year, some people are still receiving more than $1 million a year.

The firm now has a skeleton staff of 292. Of those, 29 are receiving more than $250,000 a year each, with two traders receiving $1.45 million a year each, according to internal documents obtained by *The New York Times*.

The documents detail Drexel's finances during October. People involved in the bankruptcy proceedings said there has not been any substantial change since then.

The total amount paid to Drexel's 73 officers — staff from the level of vice-president to the chief executive — this year will be $21.1 million, according to the documents. The amount paid to the rest of the staff will be $14.05 million.

David Boies, a partner at Cravath, Swaine & Moore, the New York firm representing Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and Resolution Trust Corporation in a complaint against Drexel, said: "The money being spent to continue the Drexel operation, which would include but not be limited to the executive salaries, are unnecessarily depleting the estate.

"The assets ought to be preserved and distributed to the taxpayers represented by the FDIC with as little depletion as possible."

The payments have been reviewed by Frank Conrad, the federal bankruptcy judge overseeing the case, as well as by executives on various creditor committees and the equity committee, which were established as a standard part of the bankruptcy proceeding.

The payments led representatives of some parties, as well as some former Drexel employees, to contend that assets were being wasted.

As part of the bankruptcy proceedings, Drexel agreed to have its compensation system reviewed by an outside consultant.

Drexel executives said they were in a difficult position when the firm filed for bankruptcy protection. If the firm paid small salaries, it would be unable to retain a number of its most talented professionals. If it lost, those executives, the executives argued, the firm would have greater difficulty selling some of its most illiquid assets.

Drexel also needed these professionals, the executives said, as an "institutional memory" to help argue its case against the 9,000 civil claims filed against it.

The payments are not scaled according to title. John Sorte, who became chief executive this year, is being paid an annual $750,000, according to the documents. Richard Wright, the chief financial officer, is paid $650,000 and Frederick Joseph, the vice-chairman who was chief executive until recently, is paid $450,000, the documents show.

As in Drexel's old days, some investment bankers and traders are paid more than their bosses. Robert Beyer and Mark Attanasio, both managing directors in capital markets, each receive $1.45 million a year, the documents show.

Warren Trepp, who was head of the junk bond trading desk at Drexel, is paid $750,000. Some lawyers have called Drexel's effort to reorganize impossible, saying that its executives should accept that it is no longer a viable business.

Mr Boies said: "It is clear there is no realistic chance that Drexel is going to be reorganized."

The debate about executives' pay is coupled with concerns about payments to lawyers and others helping in the bankruptcy. Drexel has to pay for its own lawyers, as well as for those on the various committees.

The firm disclosed in a bankruptcy court hearing recently that those costs in June, July and August came to $19 million. Of that, $16.6 million was for fees and the rest for expenses.

A Drexel executive said: "The real money comes in where we have meetings and everybody sends one or two lawyers."

At the pre-sentencing hearing of Michael Milken, the former head of Drexel's high-yield junk bond division, a large number of bankruptcy lawyers attended each session — with each separately submitting bills for watching the proceedings.

Jobless up to 9% in France

Paris – THE seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in November reached 9 per cent compared with 8.9 per cent in October. The number of unemployed rose by 13,100, or 0.5 per cent, to 2.54 million compared with 2.52 million in October. The number of unemployed has now risen for the third month in succession.

● The seasonally-adjusted current account deficit totalled Fr33 billion in the first nine months of 1990, against Fr13.5 billion in the 1989 period. *(Reuter)*

Tokyo brokers are questioned

Tokyo – The Ministry of Finance is questioning Japanese securities companies about two bond underwriting deals that Salomon Brothers (Asia) was set to lead-manage.

Salomon offered Oji Paper and Fujisawa Pharmaceutical favourable terms to issue yen-denominated convertible bonds in the Euromarket. But the deals have not come to market. *(Reuter)*

Ivernia placing

Ivernia West, the Irish mining company quoted on the Third Market, has raised about Ir£1.65 million (£1.54 million) through a placing of 3.45 million new ordinary shares at Ir48p each.

Pilots 'sick'

Dallas – American Airlines, the largest American airline, said that about 12 per cent of the cancelled flights since December 21 were due to disgruntled pilots staying at home sick. *(Reuter)*

Fairfax adviser

Sydney – The receiver for the John Fairfax publishing group said that Baring Bros Burrows and Partners had been appointed adviser on its restructuring. *(Reuter)*

Lasmo licence

Islamabad – Pakistan has given Lasmo a three-year licence to explore for oil in the north of the country. *(Reuter)*

Why Leisure's wheel of fortune points to buyers

Next year, like this, is likely to be a buyer's market in the leisure industry. A racecourse? Yours for £20 million. A pub? Any number on the market. Swish hotels? Two a penny. Even some London casinos may be bought for not much more than the now absent high rollers could at one time afford to lose in an evening.

All are part of the forced sale of leisure assets, a bring and buy that has turned into a vicious circle and left some of the big names in leisure with more time on their hands than they may have wished for.

The circle turns thus: company A has a problem with rising debt, and is forced to unload assets. The market value of those assets tumbles, so upsetting company B, which has already pledged sales to keep its own borrowings within bounds. Company B is forced to put more of its assets on the market, so pushing prices lower. Bad news for company C, which has its own sales to carry out.

The most obvious example is Brent Walker Group, which at the start of this month escaped again from corporate collapse. George Walker, the founder and chairman, has always been better known as a deal-maker than a manager, but it was last year's purchase of the William Hill betting shop chain from Grand Metropolitan for £685 million that was seen as a deal too far.

Mr Walker had plans to transform the betting shop into the social centre of the Nineties. Those plans are unlikely to come to fruition, with Brent Walker badly strapped for cash.

The GrandMet deal left Brent Walker with large debts and a need to make disposals. But as the assets came up for sale, the market collapsed, as did a string of smaller leisure groups whose receivers had no difficulty contemplating fire sale prices. By the autumn, Brent Walker had debts of £1.4 billion, of which £128 million was repayable within a year, an impossible task given analysts' forecasts of pre-tax profits under £100 million.

A convertible bond issue and a debt restructuring were arranged, but the company will have to continue its talks with bankers well into the new year if it is to survive. Disposals look essential, but Mr Walker says the assets available are probably worth half their book value.

Stephen Forsyth left Leisure Investments last year, but it was not until last spring that the company collapsed, after an ill-timed all-shares takeover from Bear Brand, a small financial group.

The fallout from LI included Lingfield racecourse, in Surrey, which has failed to reach its claimed asking price of £20 million, and Aspinall's, the London casino, which went back to John Aspinall, its former owner.

Another victim of the times is George Martin, the former head of Pleasurama, who had fallen foul of Mr Forsyth at LI. Mr Martin emerged at Pavilion Leisure with a plan to turn a smallish fish into a large one, but left in September this year after a share price slump wiped out most of the group's stock market value. The story was a familiar one: promised disposals that were to fund a huge acquisition already made failed to materialise.

Virtually any company with the word leisure in its name was guaranteed a bad year. Leading Leisure, which had Tony Jacklin, the golfer, on its board, went into receivership. Midsummer Leisure was swallowed by European Leisure, which has since sold its Firkin pubs to Stakis, another debt-plagued leisure group.

Mecca Leisure changed its mind half way through its fight against a £525 million bid from Rank Organisation. Mecca was left with debts after it took over Pleasurama, and when planned sales failed to occur, it turned to Rank for shelter.

In the hotels market, the clearest straw in the wind was Sir Ron Brierley's bid for Mount Charlotte. It was an offer he never wanted to make, but was forced on him, and which he never expected to win at that level. His success came as a result of the City's eagerness to abandon investment in the sector.

The list of hotels for sale has been growing all year, and any improvement in prices can only tempt out further sellers. Nigel Reed, of Bridgewater Management, the leisure funds specialist, says £1 billion worth of hotels may be on the market. He blames rising interest charges, falling consumer demand, and the slump in the property sector. The latter came as leisure groups started to rely on property earnings to top up profits.

Peter Hilliar, of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, says the industry has yet to see the worst and that the first quarter of next year could be tougher still. There are rich pickings for buyers with cash, he believes. "Anyone undergeared and prepared to take a long view is looking with a great deal of interest at the moment."

MARTIN WALLER

Stress in leisure: Ragdale Hall, Leicestershire, the health farm once owned by LI

Firmness in bonds supports the Dow

New York

SHARES lost some of their opening gains at mid-morning but were still firm. The market was under pressure from higher oil prices, but continued strength in bonds provided support. The Dow Jones industrial average was 5.69 up at 2,626.98 after moving as high as 2,628.47. Rising shares narrowly outnumbered falls.

Michael Metz, a market strategist at Oppenheimer and Co, said that the morning's activity was largely random. He added: "There's no incentive to do anything at the moment. This week is a non-event."

● **Tokyo** – The market managed a small rally at the end of the day mainly because of index-related buying after yet another day of sluggish and directionless trading as it remained affected by the Christmas lull. Most overseas markets were closed on Tuesday when Tokyo was open.

The Nikkei index closed up 119.68 points, or 0.50 per cent, at 23,887.56. It fell 351.72 on Tuesday.

The Nikkei rose by as many as 207.75 points near the close. It moved in a narrow, 280-point band. Turnover was 220 million shares, up only slightly from 210 million on Tuesday which was one of the slowest days this year.

● **Paris** – Shares closed sharply lower, pulled down in the last few minutes by futures-related selling.

The CAC-40 index, after trading in a tight range for much of the day, plunged 27.08 points, or 1.73 per cent, to 1,536.89. Four Paris brokers appeared to have waited until the end of the day to sell blue chips and buy CAC-40 futures.

● **Singapore** – Prices closed moderately lower across the board because of concern about the Gulf and a lack of direction from overseas markets. The Straits Times industrial index fell 17.10 from Friday's close to 1,154.89. *(Reuter)*

WALL STREET

	Dec 26 midday	Dec 21 close
Abbott Lab	43¾	43¾
Aetna Life	40½	40½
Allegheny	13¾	14¼
Air Prods	56	55¼
Albertsons	35¾	35¾
Allied Sig	19⅝	19½
Allied Stores	33¼	33¼
Allied Signal	27¾	27¾
Alumin CA	56½	56⅝
Am Brands	40⅝	41⅛
Am Cyanamid	51⅞	52
Am Elec Pwr	27⅝	28⅛
Am General	30⅝	30⅝
Am Home	53⅝	53⅝
Am Int	78⅝	79¼
Am Medical	5⅛	4⅝
Am Stores	53⅝	53⅝
Amax	22⅛	22⅛
Amer Hess	46⅝	46⅝
Ameritech	67⅞	68⅛
Amoco	51	51⅛
AMP	45⅛	45⅛
AMR	49⅝	49⅝
Anheuser-B	41⅞	42⅛
Apple Comp	43⅛	45
Archer-Dan	22⅛	22⅛
Arkla	19⅝	19⅝
Armstrong	26⅝	26⅝
Asarco	26⅝	27⅛
Ashland Oil	28	28⅝
AT&T	30⅝	31
Atlan Richfld	124⅝	122
Auto DP	54⅝	54⅛
Avery Intl	21⅛	21⅛
Avon Prod	29⅝	29⅝
Baltimore	28⅝	28⅛
Banc One	27⅞	28⅝
Bankamerica	27⅞	27⅞
Bard	16⅝	17
Barnett Bl	20	20⅛
Bausch Lmb	68⅝	68⅝
Baxter Intl	27⅝	28
Bee Dickin	74⅝	74⅝
Bell Atlan	65⅝	65⅝
Bellsouth	65	65⅝
Bir Hughes	25⅝	24⅝
Black Decker	9⅝	10⅛
Block	43⅝	44⅛
Brkrs Tst NY	44⅛	44⅛
Boeing	45⅝	46⅛
Boise Casc	27	27⅝
Borden	29⅝	29⅝
Brist-Myer	66⅝	67⅛
Browng-Fer	22⅛	22⅛
Burl Nth	39	39⅝
CAI	7⅝	8
Campbell Sp	56⅝	56⅝
Cap Cities	463	468
Capital HC	39	39⅝
Carolina	46⅝	46⅝
Caterpillar	46⅝	47⅛
CBS	174	174⅛
Central SW	44	44⅛
Champion	26	25⅝
Chase Man	10⅝	10⅝
Chem Bnkg	11⅛	11⅛
Chevron	71⅝	71⅛
Chrysler	13	13⅛
Chubb	53⅝	53⅝
Cigna	41⅛	41⅛
Citicorp	13⅝	13⅛
Clorox Uc	50⅛	50⅛
Clorox	37⅛	37⅛
Cmwlth Edis	35	35⅛
CNA Fncl	68⅝	67⅛
Coastal	32⅛	32⅛
Coca-Cola	47⅛	46⅝
Colgate-Pal	74⅛	74⅝
Columb Gas	47⅛	47
Comcast	56⅝	56⅝
Compaq	36⅝	36⅝
Cons Edis	24	23⅝
Cons Nat	44	43⅝
Cons Rail	40⅝	40⅝
Cooper Ind	41⅛	40⅝
Corning	44⅝	44⅝
CPC Intl	62⅝	62⅝
Crown Cork	57	57⅝
CSX	31⅝	31⅝
Cums	28⅝	28⅝
Dayton-Hud	56⅝	57
Deere	48⅝	48⅛
Delta Air	56⅝	56⅝
Deluxe	34⅝	35
Detroit Ed	28⅝	28⅝
Digital Eq	67⅝	66⅝
Disney	100⅝	100⅝
Dominion	47⅛	47⅛
Donnelley	40⅛	40⅝
Dover	38	38⅝
Dow Chem	46⅝	46⅝
Dow Jones	34⅛	35⅝
Dresser Ind	21	21⅛
Du Pont	50⅝	50⅝
Duke Pwr	31⅛	31⅝
Dun Bradst	48⅝	48⅛
East Kodak	41⅛	41⅛
Eaton	48⅝	48⅛
Emerson El	58	58
Enron	55⅝	54⅛
Entergy	22⅝	22⅛
Eqmt	23⅛	23⅝
Exxon	51⅞	50⅝
Fed NMA	36⅞	36
Fedd Expns	35	35
Fst Nwster	11⅛	11⅛
Fluor	37⅝	37⅝
FMC	31	31⅛
Ford Motor	26⅝	26⅝
FPL	29⅝	29⅝
Fst Chicago	17⅞	18⅝
Fst Interst	25	25⅛
Fst Union	16⅛	16⅛
Gannett	56⅝	57⅛
Gen Cinema	19⅛	19⅝
Gen Elec	57⅞	58
Gen Mills	47⅞	48⅝
Gen Motors	34⅞	34⅞
Gen RE	91⅞	90⅝
Gen Signal	38	38⅛
Genuine Prts	n/a	n/a
Georgia-Pac	38⅝	39⅝
Gillette	61	61
Goodrich	38⅛	38⅝
Goodyear	17⅞	17⅞
Grace	24⅝	25
Greyhound	25⅛	26
Gt Atlantic	44	43⅝
Gt Western	11⅛	11⅛
GTE	29⅝	29⅝
Halliblrtn	44⅝	43⅝
Heinz	35	34⅛
Hercules	34⅝	34⅝
Hershey Fd	38⅛	38⅛
Hewlet Pack	32⅝	31⅛
Hilton Hil	37	37⅛
Home Depot	38⅝	39⅛
Homestake	17⅞	17⅞
Honeywell	63⅝	67⅛
Houston Ind	36⅝	36⅝
Howlett Intl	32⅝	33⅛
Humana	42⅝	43⅝
IBM	113⅝	113⅝
IC Ind	72⅝	74⅝
IFF	48⅝	48⅝
Illnois TW	25⅝	25⅝
Inco	37⅝	37⅝
Ingsll-Rand	24⅝	24
Inland Steel	37⅞	40
Intel	53⅝	53⅛
Intl Paper	49	n/a
ITT	29⅝	29⅝
James River	71⅝	71⅛
Johnson Jhnn		
K Mart	27⅞	28⅝
Kellogg	76⅝	76⅝
Kerr-McGee	44⅝	44⅝
Kimbly-Clrk	83	83⅛
Knight-Ridr	45⅝	46⅝
Lilly	74⅝	74⅝
Limited	17⅞	18
Lin Bridstg	81⅛	82
Lincln Nat	40⅝	40⅝
Litton Ind	77⅝	77
Lockheed	33⅝	34
Louis-Pac	27⅛	27⅛
Manu Hanv	22⅞	24
Marriott	11⅛	12⅝
Marsh McLen	76	75⅛
Martin Mar	44⅝	45⅛
Masco	16⅝	16⅛
May Dept	44	44⅛
Mayag	10⅝	10⅝
MCA	67⅝	67⅛
McDnl Doug	41⅛	42⅝
McDonalds	39⅝	39⅝
McGraw-Hill	52⅝	53⅛
MCI Com	19⅝	19⅝
Mead	28⅝	28⅝
Medtronic	56⅝	57⅛
Melville	43	42⅝
Merck	87	87⅝
Merill Lynch	21⅛	21⅛
MMM	56⅝	56⅛
Mobil	58⅝	58⅝
Monsanto	49⅝	49⅛
Moore	22⅝	22⅛
Morgan	46⅝	46⅛
Motorola	53	52⅝
Nat Medical	36⅝	37⅛
Nat Semi	8	8
Nat Service	28⅝	28⅛
Navistar	2⅛	2⅛
NCNB	34⅝	35⅝
NCR	56⅝	56⅝
NED Engy	33⅛	33⅛
Newmnt Min	37⅞	38⅝
Nlagr Mhwk	13⅝	13⅛
NBD	39⅝	39⅝
NL Indstrs	9⅝	10⅝
Nordstrom	36⅝	33⅛
North Strn	41⅛	40⅝
Norwest	31⅛	31⅛
Nthn St Pwr	34	35⅝
Nthn Telecm	28⅝	28⅝
NY Times	20⅝	20⅝
Nynex	71⅛	73⅛
Occid Petrl	19⅝	20
Ohio Edi	17⅝	17⅛
Omnia Bys	8	8⅛
Oryx Energy	36	36⅝
Pac Ent	39⅝	40⅝
Pac Gas Elec	25⅝	25⅝
Pac Telesis	45⅝	49⅝
Pacccar	33⅝	33⅝
Pacificrp	22⅛	22⅝
Pall	34⅝	35⅝
Paramount	42⅝	43⅛
Parke-Hanin	34	34⅝
Penney	43⅝	43⅝
Pennzoil	64⅛	64⅛
Pepsico	25⅝	26⅝
Pfizer	80⅝	81⅛
Phelps Pd	26⅝	26⅝
Phldps Elec	18	18
Phlp Morris	51	51⅛
Phlps Dodge	55⅛	56⅝
Pitney Bow	40⅝	41⅛
Pltr Dome	15⅛	15⅝
PNC Fncl	23⅝	23⅝
Pnhdle Estn	12⅛	12⅛
Polaroid	23⅝	23⅝
PPG Inds	46⅛	46⅝
Prctr Gmble	88⅛	88⅝
Price	39⅛	38⅝
Primerica	23	23⅛
Pub Service	26⅝	27
Quaker Oats	52⅝	52
Ralston Pur	100	99
Raychem	22⅛	23⅝
Raytheon	68⅝	68⅝
Reebok	12⅝	12⅛
Roadway	27⅝	28⅛
Rockwell	27⅝	27⅝
Rollm Hsus	36	35⅝
Royal Dutch	77⅛	76⅝
Rubbermaid	42	43⅛
Ryndis Mtl	55⅝	55⅝
Safeco	33	32⅝
Salomon	25⅝	25⅝
Sant Fe Pac	8⅝	8⅝
Sara Lee	32⅝	32⅝
Schlumbgr	39	39
Schnitzbgr	55⅝	55⅝
Schrg-Plgh	44⅝	45⅝
Scott Papr	37⅝	37⅝
Seagram	67⅝	68⅝
Sears Rbck	25⅝	25⅝
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Shmrk-Wllms	37	37⅝
Shrdnn	16⅝	15⅝
Sklg-on Tls	31⅝	32⅝
Sol Cream	27⅝	27⅝
St Paul	62⅛	61⅝
Stanley Wks	29⅝	30⅝
Bruno Cntr	12	11⅝
Sun Co	28⅝	28⅝
Sunst Bk	33⅝	33⅝
Super Valu	35⅝	35⅝
SW Bell	56⅝	56⅝
Synntx	58⅝	57⅝
Sysco	32⅛	32⅝
Tandem	12⅝	12
Tandy	33⅝	33⅝
Tele-Comm	13⅝	13⅝
Telledyne	14⅝	15⅝
Temple-In	31⅛	31⅛
Tenneco	48	48⅝
Texaco	55⅝	55⅝
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Texas Util	37⅛	37⅝
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Time Wrnr	88	89⅝
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Toys R Us	33⅝	33⅝
Transam	33⅛	33⅛
Travelers	16⅝	16⅝
Tribune	34⅛	34⅝
TRW	38⅝	37⅝
Tyco Lab	42⅝	43⅛
UAL	110	112⅝
Un Camp	36⅛	36⅝
Un Carbide	17⅝	17⅝
Un Pacific	70⅝	70⅝
Unilever	88⅝	88⅝
Unisys	3⅝	3⅝
Unocal	27⅝	27
Upjohn	39	37⅝
US West	36	36⅝
Utdsk Dp	16⅝	16⅛
USFAG	7⅝	7⅝
UST	34⅛	33⅝
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For an informal discussion please contact Charles Barnes, District Information Manager on 081 574 2444 Ext. 5094. Application forms and job descriptions available from the Unit Personnel Department, St Bernard's Wing, Ealing Hospital, Uxbridge Road, Southall Middlesex UB1 3EU. Tel. 081 574 2444 Ext. 5185.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 24.1.1991.

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This post will be full-time. Salary and employment contract to be negotiated with successful applicant. Detailed job description available, on request, from the Treasurer, International Confederation of Midwives, 10 Barley Mow Passage, London W4 4PH. Telephone 081-994-6477. Interviews will be held on March 1st 1991.

Closing date: February 8th 1991.

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MMC INVITES EVIDENCE ON SOUTH EAST AIRPORTS INQUIRY

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission would like to hear from any person with information or views on the maximum level of airport charges that the airport companies should be able to levy at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports during the five years commencing on 1 April 1992.

The Commission would also welcome information or views on whether each of the airport companies has pursued a course of conduct during the last twelve months which has operated or might be expected to operate against the public interest.

The Commission would like to receive evidence in writing by 31 January 1991 to be sent to: The Reference Secretary (BAA), Monopolies and Mergers Commission, New Court, 48 Carey Street, London WC2A 2JT.

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Ref ST-02

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SYDNEY *AUSTRALIA*

CITY PLANNER

A$135,000 Package Neg.

Applications are invited for the position of City Planner. This position enjoys Head of Department status within Council's organisational structure and is responsible to the Town Clerk for the consideration and processing of Development and Building Applications. This includes the monitoring of building works and the preparation of local environmental and urban design studies and the preparation of local environmental and development control plans.

The Planning Department employs in excess of eighty officers and is located within Town Hall House, Sydney, Australia.

In addition to providing professional service to the Council, the Department also services the Central Sydney Planning Committee.

QUALIFICATIONS and EXPERIENCE. Applicants must possess an appropriate *university qualification and be able to demonstrate proven management capabilities.*

A detailed job description is available upon request at Council's Human Resources Department (telephone (612) 265 9187).

REMUNERATION: A package in the vicinity of A$135,000 will be negotiated inclusive of a vehicle and superannuation component. The appointment will be made under contract for a maximum period of five years and will be subject to annual performance review.

Applications should be lodged with the Director of Human Resources, Box 1591, G.P.O., Sydney 2001, quoting the position reference No. 218/90 by 18 January, 1991.

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CITY OF SYDNEY

Fields of dreams which are being lost for ever

Britain's outdoor sporting heritage is under threat as some of the finest acres of playing fields are being sold by local authorities. John Goodbody finds that despite government attempts at protection through a national register of playing fields, the situation is worsening

With many local and education authorities disposing of assets – to avoid being charge-capped, they claim – the number of playing fields being sold for redevelopment is showing a drastic increase.

Only two months after the government emphasised the importance of retaining adequate open space in urban areas, the situation is actually deteriorating, with many sites already doomed and scores more under threat.

Don Earley, the fields administrator of the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA), said: "In the last fortnight I have become aware of possible sales in Essex, Surrey, Staffordshire, Kent, Nottinghamshire, Middlesex, Hertfordshire and Liverpool. This is not a new trend but recently it has become particularly bad."

Nigel Hook, senior technical officer of the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), which represents the national governing bodies, agreed. "We are besieged now by sports clubs concerned with the loss of playing fields. Local authorities have received less money from central government for the rate support grant and they are having to sell off their holdings of land.

"This is a disastrous trend, particularly for a minister for sport committed to assisting young people. We hope that the government will act on its white paper, *This Common Inheritance*. However, in many cases, it is like closing the sports field gate after the bulldozer has already started work."

On October 16, Robert Atkins, the minister for sport, announced a planning policy guidance (PPG) note as a follow-up to the government's own white paper, published on September 25. In a written parliamentary answer, he said: "The government attaches great importance to the retention of adequate recreational open space in urban areas. The planning system needs to ensure that adequate land is, and continues to be, allocated for organised sport and informal recreation.

"The draft PPG asks local planning authorities to ensure that their policies address local needs, protect valuable sites and identify suitable sites for new provision."

Yet in Liverpool, a city synonymous with football, nine outdoor facilities have been sold off since April 1989 and a further 14 are up for sale. Even in 1988, the city had only 1,114 acres of playing fields, 58 per cent of what the NPFA considered was the minimum it should have had for its size.

Sir Trevor Jones, a former Liberal Democrat leader of the council, said: "We have some of the finest acres for sport in the country but these are being sold off. According to the treasurer's report, the council has to sell £48 million of assets in the current year."

He points out that, before the 1980 Planning and Land Act, it was illegal to sell playing fields unless there was compensatory provision in the same area. However, this clause was deleted. "As a result, a Labour council has ruthlessly exploited Tory legislation," he said.

However, David Algar, the city council's assistant estates surveyor, pointed out: "Some of the playing fields are attached to schools and the director of recreation has assessed the need for them. This need has reduced over the years. The fields are not being used enough. So a rationalisation has taken place."

He said that the city had created over 1,000 acres of new open space, far more than it had disposed of. This consisted of a variety of terrain, including parks, although he accepted that only some of the new open space was playing fields.

In south London, King's College has sold a 13.5-acre site, including Dulwich Hamlet FC's ground, to Sainsbury's for a supermarket development at an estimated cost of £25 million.

Originally, Southwark council unanimously turned down the proposal, which was opposed by three local MPs, from different parties. However, new plans, which included funding for the community, were submitted. On July 30, the development committee, after being warned in the council minutes that Sainsbury's was likely to withdraw the benefits for the locality if the application went to appeal, approved the plans.

Dulwich Hamlet will be rehoused in a new stadium and Sainsbury's will also provide public open space, alongside the large car park servicing the supermarket. A spokesperson for J Sainsbury plc, the company which won an award in 1989 as the greenest grocer of the year, said: "The need for a modern supermarket, an area of public open space and a new stadium and pitch for Dulwich Hamlet outweighs the need for private, under-utilised playing fields."

Members of King's College medical school will now play on Sainsbury's own pitches in south London, using facilities more convenient for them.

Yet, despite the practicality of the deal, the fact remains that more than eight acres of playing fields will be lost on an inner-city site.

In Yorkshire, the Leeds School Sports Association, which has difficulty in paying travelling expenses and keeping its grounds running, is seeking permission from the Charity Commissioners to sell the 3½-acre Archie Gordon playing field, only a mile from the city centre and used by local representative teams and Milford amateur rugby league club. The site would be redeveloped.

Councillor John Illingworth pointed out that even if other facilities could be used, this was of little benefit to children living in inner-city areas who did not want to, or were unable to, travel far from the vicinity of their homes.

In Kingston, Surrey, where the royal borough has to raise £100 million over the next four years, 14 sites, either owned by the education committee or land in which the committee has an interest, are under threat. Campaigners say half of them are used for recreational purposes.

However, Paul Clokie, the Conservative leader of the council, insists that only one playing field site is affected and that the council has, in fact, bought an island on the Thames and 110 acres for sports facilities. Public meetings and protests are just beginning.

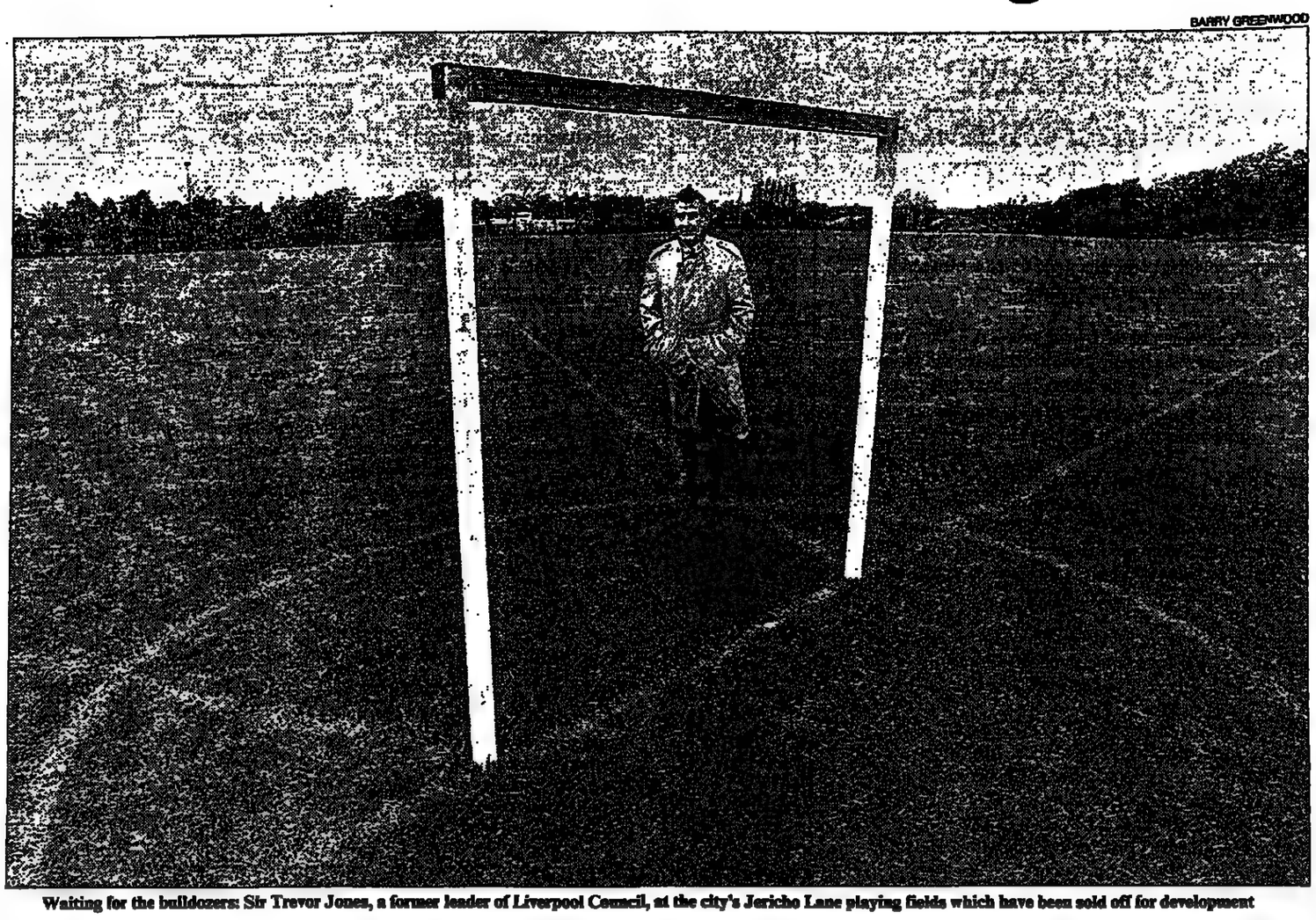
Gyles Brandreth, the NPFA chairman, said that the issue was becoming more prominent because people were more determined to make their views heard. He welcomed the government decision, made two months ago, to have a national register of playing fields and the pledge from the Minister for Sport that it would be kept up to date.

Although many local authorities say that school playing fields are under-used this is largely because of the decline in the population of school age in the 1980s. Official forecasts are for the number of schoolchildren to rise by 800,000 over the next ten years. But playing fields lost to developers in 1991, are unlikely to be recovered in 2000.

Brandreth also cited the correlation between unsocial behaviour and the lack of good sports facilities. "This is a quality of life issue. Do away with good facilities and you increase the social cost." He said that of the 300 children killed on the roads each year, the majority were playing on the streets.

He said: "It is an easy option to sell a playing field. But there is a cost in human and social terms. It is a false economy."

BARRY GREENWOOD



Waiting for the bulldozers: Sir Trevor Jones, a former leader of Liverpool Council, at the city's Jericho Lane playing fields which have been sold off for development

SPORTS LETTERS

There is more to football than goals alone

From Mr Lionel Robinson

Sir, I question whether the *Times* leader writer ("Another ball game", December 14) appreciates the pleasure experienced by many football enthusiasts in the physical and psychological encounter between a vibrant attacking force and a well-organised defensive formation. It is not goals alone that attract. Let football be chess-like by all means, but it is no less pleasurable for that and preferable by far to the pinball, pop-football proposed.

This does not mean that one is not receptive to alterations to the laws of the game, but only if such changes facilitate enhancement of skills. Goals are the cherries on the cake but the thrill is in individual skills and the blending of these skills to produce smooth, effective teamwork.

By all means let us experiment with a marginally larger goal – say 8 metres x 2¼ metres, giving an area approx 1 per cent greater than the traditional 8 yards x 8ft goal – yet encouraging less aerial work, lower trajectories and consequently more foot skills.

Yet again a law deterring backpassing to the goalkeeper from outside the penalty box would not only reduce time-wasting but would encourage players to develop skills to extricate themselves from exposed or difficult situations.

Change by all means if it helps produce a more open game – goals or no goals – but please don't let us succumb to the pressures of the media and commercialism for radical alterations to produce high scoring games.

The structure of the game should be preserved for the delight of future generations.

Yours faithfully,
LIONEL ROBINSON,
35 Belsize Road, NW6.

From Rev Courtney Atkin

Sir, Why on earth all this bother about bigger goals, more players in a team, and so on, when the problem could be solved with a pot of paint?

The extension of a transverse line of each penalty area extended to the touchlines would create an area at each end of the pitch containing within itself the existing penalty area. (For brevity's sake let me call this the Atkin area.)

Offside: at the kick-off and at subsequent restarts from the centre spot (after half-time and after the scoring of a goal) both teams must be, as at present, wholly within their own half. Thereafter a player can only be offside in the opposing team's Atkin area. Result, first, a whole new playing area is opened up which is not subjected to the purely negative offside trap, one of the root causes of malaise in the game; second, more goals.

Passing back to the goalkeeper: only to be allowed from within the Atkin area. A player may not take the ball from outside to inside the Atkin area and then pass it directly to the goalkeeper; if this is what he wants to do, it must include passing the ball via another player. Result: less deliberate time-wasting, another cause of malaise in the game; more opportunity for interception by an opposition no longer hamstrung by the offside trap; more goals. The goalkeeper would be allowed to receive a backpass if he were to take it outside the Atkin area, but he would then, as under existing rule, not be allowed to handle it; nor would he be allowed to pass it back either directly or indirectly to himself or to any other member of his team within the Atkin area. The punishment for infringement of these rules: in the first instance a free kick from where the goalkeeper received the ball, in the second instance a penalty kick.

Restrictions on defensive walls, another time-wasting ploy. As at present no player from the opposing team to be within ten yards (or whatever – why not 12 or 15?) of the place from which the free kick is to be taken, and no player from the offending side to be within the penalty area at the time that the free kick is taken. If this seems harsh, it would not only result in more goals, it might also dissuade undisciplined and unscrupulous players from committing "professional" fouls.

Yours faithfully,
COURTNEY ATKIN,
2 Newlands Court,
Ledbury,
Herefordshire.

From Mr W. A. Metaxa

Sir, You support Fifa's idea of making football goals bigger because it would ensure that "The only safe tactic would be to score, score, and score again, as in rugby". But it is precisely this feature of football, the scarcity of goals, that gives the game its unique character.

In football it is perfectly possible for a clearly inferior team to beat a superior one. Upsets in rugby, American football and tennis, for example, occur when a team previously regarded as inferior actually plays better than the team expected to dominate. These sports lack an element of unpredictability because the side which performs better will nearly always win. A rugby team camped in the opponent's 22 can rarely help but score, but in football a team can dominate a game and lose. An outclassed team can plan to defend stoutly, enjoy some luck and sneak a win. How else could the Faeroe Islands beat Austria? If the goals were enlarged, territorial dominance and possession would inevitably lead to goals. The better team would always win and football would be diminished as a sport.

A second, attractive feature of football would be lost with larger goals. Football is again unique in that a team that attacks is often paradoxically more likely to concede a goal. A team which falls behind will naturally push an extra man forward to achieve an equaliser. However, at the highest levels this tactic increases the chances of an equaliser much less than it increases the chances of the side in front scoring again. This is because a team is more likely to score with two forwards against three defenders than with six forwards against seven defenders, even if the ball is in its own half.

This breakaway style of play, used by Nottingham Forest, is so attractive because by definition it depends on speed and skill. It lures the opposition forward, secure in the knowledge that skilful defence can always shut out an attack. Bigger goals and easier scoring would eliminate this security and create static games with massed attack facing massed defence. Other sports do not have the tactical subtlety of football. A losing team in rugby tries to attack, and in doing so successfully, is more likely to draw level. In football, to commit the team to attack carries risks – this explains the excessive caution of teams in recent years.

In addition larger goals would elevate the importance of power shooting above the skills of passing, ball control and using limited space which are the real joys of the game. They would also promote use of the tedious offside trap as it would be critical to keep opponents playing far away from goal.

The initiative for larger, and therefore more, goals overemphasises the end product of the sport at the expense of the fundamental reasons for the game's appeal, its unpredictability and reward of basic ball skills. Do potential law-changers realise this?

Yours faithfully,
W. A. METAXA,
Flat 12,
25 Courtfield Road, SW7.

From Mr John O'Byrne

Sir, Has any thought been given to reducing the size of the ball?

Yours etc.,
JOHN O'BYRNE,
2 Mount Argus Court,
Harold's Cross,
Dublin 6.

Grounds for rugby lawmakers

From Mr Christopher Lane

Sir, Although three replacements are now permitted in international and divisional rugby union matches, the substitutions can take place only in the event of injury confirmed by a doctor. The absurd possibility remains that if four players get injured, only three can be replaced.

In effect, therefore, the law says that you can have six reserves on the bench, and if the team suffers up to three injuries, then each injured player can be replaced. If a fourth man is injured, the law effectively inflicts the same punishment on the team as that of having a man sent off.

It is a crazy law which forces a side in such a predicament to finish the match with 14 players when there are still three fit and able men sitting on the sidelines.

Fortunately, such an absurdity rarely occurs, but the fact remains that in such a physical game, a team could easily suffer four injuries, and if they do, then they will be unfairly and severely penalised.

The law should be altered so that if there are six confirmed injuries, all six replacements will be allowed on the field.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER LANE,
Flat 3, Boiney Court,
Portsmouth Road,
Surbiton, Surrey.

From Mr David Gullick

Sir, Rugby union's lawmakers should cut out one increasing cause of time-wasting. I refer to the habit of hookers, after the lineout has formed, walking infield, ball in hand, to take orders from the pack leader about the throw-in.

Surely "standing orders" could obviate some of this conferring. And, even with much crowd noise, visual signalling systems should cover the out-of-the-ordinary situation. For most games, of course, the spoken code should suffice.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GULLICK,
1 Hearthbrow Road,
Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Other changes

From Mr George Harris

Sir, Now that the football authorities are considering moving the goalposts might it not be the right time for other sports and pastimes to consider changes?

Bridge players, for instance, might consider introducing a fourteenth card – a zero perhaps. Rugby league teams, who do not gather in such large clusters as rugby union teams, might consider a further reduction in numbers to, say, 11.

In rugby union the size of today's players is quite terrifying to one who, 50 years ago, was big enough to play as a prop forward at 11st. How about a 12st limit?

Ice hockey players clearly need a larger puck, if only so that it can be seen on television.

Golf presents an interesting situation. Do spectators want to see more putts holed out or fewer? If near-misses are the stuff of thrills then a smaller diameter hole is called for, but if golf is to follow football and seek more goals then a bucket-sized hole with padded sides would offer the chance of pitching in more often.

Finally, another foot of height on the net in tennis would surely introduce some nice wristy, spin serves, brightening the game for viewers as much as does the introduction of an Eddie Hemmings in Test cricket.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE HARRIS,
28 Cherry Tree Drive,
Brixton, Plymouth, Devon.

Roots of the game

From Dr Roger Morgan

Sir, With reference to the shape of the ball in the game of *calcio* (Sports Letters, December 20), I can add that the engraving by Giacomo Franco of 1610 and the drawing by Jan van Grevembroch of the eighteenth century in the collection of the Museo Correr at Venice both show a spherical ball.

The matter of whether or not the ball may only be thrown backwards is less clear. Antonio Scaino says, in *Trattato del Giuoco della Palla* (1555) that the player may throw it by touching it two or more times, but is forbidden to throw it while holding it in his hand, which suggests that it may have been struck with the fist as in Gaelic football and in the games of *Pallone Elastico* and *Ballon au Poing*.

Scaino also says that the ball may be struck, sent or thrown towards the opponent's line. These are terms which are used in describing games of tennis and it may well be that the ball was struck or thrown forwards, but the text is not explicit that this refers to throwing and not to kicking.

On the other hand, the Franco engraving shows the player with the ball in front of his team and about to place it in the goalmouth, just as in rugby football. This suggests that the rules for passing backwards and for offside were similar in both games. It is possible that there is more information in the book by Giovanni de Bardi, mentioned in the letter of December 13.

This letter also mentions silver balls used in the game as prizes. These are widely known as prizes for *jeux de paume*, that is games of handball scoring in the same way as tennis. They are mentioned in Flanders in the early seventeenth century, and are still given as prizes for such games in Friesland and Belgium. The balls used to be placed in the parish church of the winning team, but they disappeared at the time of the French Revolution. They are not generally found in the United Kingdom, so the origins of the Silver Ball of Rattray in the museum at Perth are something of a mystery.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER MORGAN,
39 Wingate Way, Cambridge.

Jockey Club should act

From Mr M. J. Campbell

Sir, John Goodbody (Comment, December 17) was right to draw attention to the harmful effects which athletes inflict upon themselves by over-training. There is one brand of sportsman he did not mention and to which his comments especially apply, jockeys.

Besides indulging in tiring exercises, many of them have frequent sauna baths and exist on a near starvation diet in order to reduce their weights to the required level. In consequence the lives of many jockeys are a misery and the ill-effects of this lifestyle in later life can be very serious.

Over the years, human beings have become both taller and heavier and yet no increase in the weights allowance has been made for many years. The Jockey Club should take prompt action to rectify this position.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM CAMPBELL,
Parkfield,
Lister Avenue,
Hitchin,
Hertfordshire.

Owners' subsidy

From Mr J. B. Williamson

Sir, Only the bookmakers' lobby has suggested that owners are asking for a subsidy. It is the owners who are subsidising racing: without them there would be no racing.

A comparison with the number of horses in training before the recession is another irrelevance. Next year's figures will show a very different picture.

Owning a racehorse is a hobby, and when owners get a reasonable deal they will find a different home for their cash.

It is not a question of subsidies. The betting tax creates a vast amount of money. The bookies, out of racing profits, have built up substantial commercial interests outside racing. What is now required is a very substantial increase in prize-money.

Yours faithfully,
J. B. WILLIAMSON,
Summertree Stud,
The Abbey,
Robertsbridge,
East Sussex.

Lengthening odds

From Mr Frank Stratton

Sir, I saw and enjoyed the recent Channel 4 programme *Dispatches*, detailing the methods used by the large bookmakers in their attempts to reflect a starting price in relation to monies being wagered. Can we look forward to seeing a similar programme entitled, I suggest, *The Knockout*, showing the public how some other gentlemen attempt to lengthen the price of fancied horses, and so obtain a greatly inflated starting price.

Yours faithfully,
F. STRATTON,
63 Camlet Way,
Hadley Wood,
Hertfordshire.

Room for big improvement

From Mr Tom Donnellan

Sir, I write from this hot and leafy part of New South Wales to ask whether it will not be possible next time to send over a better team of cricketers than the one at present touring this country.

I am one of those who have both British and Australian citizenship, so it should be a matter of great pleasure to me no matter who wins; but last year in England we saw it and this year it is the same. There is simply no contest – it is an embarrassment.

I have had to start carrying my Australian passport around with me to protect myself against the jeers of the ockers (an ocker is a sort of suntanned bovver-boy in an Akubra hat and a singlet). Truly, it is very hard to bear, having British nationality when a bunch of has-beens and no-hopers is making such a mess of a tour.

Australia has a population of some 17 million, Britain has a population three times as big. In theory, the pool of highly talented cricketers in Britain should be three times as big, and the national Test side three times as hard to beat.

I suggest to the new (and cricketing) prime minister that he makes it a matter of national priority to produce a decent representative side. A new manager should be appointed (to be given a seat in the Cabinet, regardless) and paid by results only. Moreover, it should be made a part of the contract of the captain of England that he shaves daily.

I am, etc.,
TOM DONNELLAN,
6/19 Dick Street,
Henley,
New South Wales,
Australia.

From Mr A. J. Nichols

Sir, May I suggest that whosoever the touring cricket team are next summer they be opposed in a one-day match (at Lord's?) by the Prime Minister's XI.

Could he captain the side and bat appropriately at Number Ten and remain not out?

Seriously and sincerely,
ALEC NICHOLS,
838 Rosedale,
Toccoa, Georgia,
United States.

Unkind to skiers

From Mr S. V. Straker

Sir, Brian James (December 7) was rather unfair to downhill skiers when comparing them in media terminology to the elite of other sports.

The skiers' personal television coverage is some two minutes against the clock once or twice a week in the winter, and they are usually unidentifiable unless their helmets are removed.

How are these people expected to compete in a television studio with, say, a cricketer (after a five-day Test match), a golfer (after four rounds of a tournament), a motor racer (after 70 or more circuits), a boxer (after 15 rounds), a footballer (after 90 minutes), a snooker player (after a fortnight), or a darts player (after too long in close-up)?

I for one am delighted that these skiers are genuine, honest, individuals partaking in an exhilarating sport without the so-called "obligatory" television interview following every success or failure. Long may this situation continue.

Yours sincerely,
S. V. STRAKER,
Cromden Lodge,
Manor Road,
Reigate, Surrey.

Problem formula

From Mr N. J. F. B. Samengo-Turner

Sir, As a member of the family that introduced sponsorship to grand prix motor racing via our Yeoman credit and Bowmaker sponsored Cooper and Lola formula one cars of the late fifties and early sixties, I would like to take issue with Patrick Tallack's comments (December 20) on the subject.

"Mental attitudes, not money, create success at sport. The combination of a sponsor, a television station, and a player seeking appearance money is an obvious formula for problems," Mr Tallack says about the Open golf championship.

In the cold, clear light of day of the real world, lack of television sponsors and television coverage is a formula for the type of problems that will result in most sports disappearing overnight.

Yours faithfully,
N. SAMENGO-TURNER,
Coltsfoot Cottage,
Wickhambrook,
Newmarket,
Suffolk.

Renascent species

From Mr Bunny Austin

Sir, The victory of Sampras in the Grand Slam Cup (report, December 17) was particularly worthy of praise.

Not only was his serving superb, but also his ground stroke. But most remarkable was the way he took his victory and the winning of $2 million. No throwing of racket and arms in the air, no falling on his knees. He simply walked up to the net to shake hands as if he had just finished a friendly practice game.

Surely a remarkable and certainly a refreshing young man, the rediscovery of a species once thought to be extinct. May he lead the way into a new tennis era, when the game is still a game.

Yours faithfully,
BUNNY AUSTIN,
Orford House, Meadow Hill,
Coulsdon, Surrey.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046. They should include a daytime telephone number.

The Christmas rugby match at Leicester offers several players a chance to advance their international claims

Emyr and Arnold hoping to make the most of call-up

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Barbarians have made three amendments to the XV originally selected for today's annual Christmas match against Leicester at Welford Road but you could not put your hand on your heart and say that they were significantly weakened as a result. Leicester, too, have been hit by the withdrawal of their captain, Dean Richards.

Ieuan Evans, the Llanelli wing, bruised ribs playing against Abertillery and has reluctantly withdrawn; Paul Ackford had hoped to play after he, too, sustained rib damage in the final divisional match but there have been some fairly heavy hints from the England management about ensuring his fitness for squad training in Lanzarote, so the Harlequins lock also misses the game.

Richard Loe, the New Zealand prop playing in France, has decided skiing is a better option and is the third absentee. But all three replacements have excellent reasons for making the most of the exercise. Gary Pearce, recalled to the England squad, takes over from Loe having spent most of the last month recovering from injury and Arthur Emyr, similarly sidelined during the first half of the season, comes in on the wing.

Today's teams

BARBARIANS: J-B Lafond (Racing Club and France); N Heslop (Orrell and England), J Guscott (Bath and England), P Mesnel (Racing Club and France), A Emyr (Swansea and Wales); R Andrew (Wasps and England), R Hill (Bath and England); I Buckett (Swansea), D Fox (Llanelli), G Pearce (Northampton and England), R Pool-Jones (Cambridge University), C Gray (Nottingham and Scotland), P Arnold (Swansea and Wales), A Robinson (Bath and England), D White (London Scottish and Scotland).

LEICESTER: J Liley; T Underwood, I Jones, K Bellingham, R Underwood; J Harris, A Kardoum; S Redfern, C Tressler, W Richardson, A Glasing, T Smith, A Marriott, M Grant, N Back.

He will play on the left with Nigel Heslop switching to the right and another Welshman, Paul Arnold, of Swansea, plays in the second row. Both Emyr and Arnold have good reasons for wanting to impress, their places in the national side being by no means guaranteed and there being only a few more shopping days before the XV to play England is announced on January 10.

Ireland are not represented in the Barbarian team, their leading players being en route today for the Algarve; for that reason Brian Smith does not appear for Leicester and Jez Harris plays stand-off half for the Midlands club who, in this fixture last year, scored five tries against the Barbarians' three in a 32-16 victory.

Richards injured his ankle playing for Midlands in the divisional championship. His place has been taken by Mark Grant in the back row.

If the Barbarians can match their effort of ten years ago they will be pleased. They won a thrilling encounter 28-24 over the then cup holders.

Leicester are still in the cup this season, as opposed to Bath, last season's winners deposed in a titanic battle by Leicester last month. That in itself will add piquancy to the battle of the two blond open-side flankers today, Neil Back, of Leicester, and Andy Robinson, for the Barbarians.

Robinson won the duel when Bath beat Leicester in their league meeting but Back missed the cup encounter because of a back injury. This is his chance to draw level but both have points to make after being omitted from the England training squad in favour of Peter Winterbottom and Gary Rees.

Back's time will come. Don Rutherford, the Rugby Football Union technical administrator, said when announcing the training squad but does this mean that Robinson's time has gone? He would not agree and, with his Bath colleagues, Hill and Guscott, to help and the strength of Mesnel in the centre off which to play, Robinson is sure to advance several reasons why he remains in the running.

JUSTIN SUTCLIFFE

Brooking no interference: Miles, the Gloucester No. 8, sets off on the run which was to lead to his side's first try

Murray's inspiration deflated

By ALAN LORIMER

Watsonians 4
Heriot's FP 7

IT IS two seasons since Watsonians were relegated from the first division of the McEwan's league but this year the Myreside club has given all the indications of making a merited return.

Yesterday, Watsonians, who lead the second division, had the opportunity to measure themselves against the only first division side this season with a 100 per cent record. In the event Watsonians, having played by far the better rugby, were unlucky to lose a vigorously contested match.

Watsonians were faster to the breakdown points than their first division opponents. Moreover, in their No. 8, Alan Murray, they had the outstanding player on view.

Murray, aged 24, has been only slightly limited in the number of appearances he can make for his club since taking up a junior doctor's post at Perth Royal Infirmary.

Yesterday, Murray, until forced to retire with a badly cut ear, was an inspiration, frequently leading the back row attacks with skilful pick-ups from what was generally a retreating scrum and distributing with impeccable timing to his flankers.

Behind the scrum the former Scotland and Kelso stand-off, Andrew Ker, kicked shrewdly and managed to get his line moving much more successfully than his opposite number, Cameron Glasgow, who admittedly was at the receiving end of a pretty shoddy service from his scrum half.

Heriot's were unable to achieve any consistent control save in the set scrums where their heavier scrum used weight advantage well. It was from a concerted drive by the Heriot's pack who took advantage of the temporary absence of the Watsonians' flanker, Hunter, that their scrum half, Alan Watt, scored an unstoppable try.

That levelled the scores, Watsonians having scored in the opening minutes when a footrush by Murray ended with the Watsonians' hooker, David Henderson, scrambling over for a try. Heriot's, who were on the defensive for most of the second half, maximised their one opportunity when their captain, Ken Milne, set up a ruck after dribbling the ball upfield and from the ensuing ruck Glasgow dropped a goal to win the match.

SCORERS: Watsonians: Try: D Henderson. Heriot's FP: Try: Watt. Dropped goal: Glasgow.

WATSONIANS: D Millar; D Hall, G Millar, A Garry, F Henderson; A Ker, G Henderson; G Scott, D Henderson, R Maclucia, C Hunter (Capt), C Campbell, A Sinclair, D Brooker, A Murray.

HERIOT'S FP: C Newton; D Robeson, D Stoddart, A McRobbie, P Hewitt; C Glasgow, A Watt; D Milne, K Milne (Capt), S Paul, K Glass, A Snow, P Meadows, S Lessels, G Simpson.

Ring well worth a standing ovation

By GERALD DAVIES

Cardiff 14
Pontypridd 6

PROVING the point that this game is as much a contest between the city boys with their slick handsome image and their up-valley, hard-done-by neighbours, as it is a day's outing away from the previous day's excesses, a goodly crowd turned up in wild weather.

By rights, they should have stayed at home with their mulled wine and mince pies. However, they braved the outdoors and were rewarded with a stirringly excited game in which both sides attempted to lift themselves above the cruel exigencies of the conditions and of the referee's sometimes frustrating decisions.

He did penalise Cardiff once for some jersey pulling on a Pontypridd player when a Pontypridd player it was who was the guilty party. The change of jerseys came soon after that. Cardiff won by two tries and two penalties to a goal.

After Rayer put Cardiff into the lead with a penalty in the first minute, the game was full of movement. Jenkins' quick, long drop out was carried on by Hughes and hacked further towards the line by Mason. But the chase was denied the score by Ring's last desperate lunge.

This was answered a while later with Cardiff's own counter-attack from underneath their posts but with Ring this time the culprit, for failing to hold Ford's inside pass with the line beckoning ahead of him. But the tussle remained largely among the driving forwards, although it was no less interesting for that.

The home side's tries when they came were as good as one would wish in any conditions. Rayer caught the visitors' kick out of defence and executed the scissors with Donovan. The centre ran clear, showed the ball outside to his winger, Thomas, but delayed and switched his pass inside to Booth to score.

It was a day to appreciate the value of running in straight lines. To change direction asked for trouble; to side-step and swerve meant an ignominious end in the mud for the forwards to plunder. Here, Tim Crothers, was in his element and ensured that his side won the increasingly valuable lose ball.

But Ring, as ever, defies the expected and the orthodox response. He defied the slippery surface, too, as he created with guile and superior class, Cardiff's second try. Coming down the narrow side, he ducked and weaved, dummied and swerved to leave a trail of mystified bodies behind him. After a beautifully balanced run in thick mud, he still had his wits about him and time to consider his next move.

Looking this way and that, he found Ford outside him and a perfectly-timed pass gave the winger his score. The standing ovation recognised Ring's rare talent at work.

Cardiff wondered if the points they had at half-time were anywhere near enough to see them through against the rain and wind-assisted efforts of Pontypridd in the second half. They were.

Rayer added another penalty to thicken the cushion, but even though Gavin Jones scored a try which was superbly converted from the touchline by Jenkins, Cardiff remained in command in the loose, and Ring controlled things with rare authority elsewhere. It was a much needed victory for Cardiff after their last calamitious fortnight in the league.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Tries: A Booth, S Ford. Penalty goals: M Rayer (2). Pontypridd: Try: G Jones. Conversion: N Jenkins.

CARDIFF: M Rayer; S Ford, A Donovan, S Hill, C Thomas; M Ring, A Booth; T Orrell, I Smallwood, P Edwards, T Crothers, M Edwards, S Crothers, M Bennett, I Hemborough.

PONTYPRIDD: J Mason; D Hughes, C Jones, S Gallant, G Jones; N Jenkins, K Lee; N Bezant, P John, P Knight, M Rowlands, J Bunyan, M Rowley, D Elland, D Mackinnon.

Referee: D Cherry (Brecon).

Coventry recapture old glory

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

Moseley 12
Coventry 13

COVENTRY gave Moseley such a fearful beating in the forwards that their match-winning try by Leroy McKenzie, with five minutes remaining, was a well deserved but long-delayed benefit at The Reddings yesterday.

Ironically, McKenzie, the England under-21 wing, had lurked in shivering isolation and previously touched the ball only once in a half-gale, blowing diagonally down the slope.

Coventry had first use in a bizarre match of breakaway scores, an uncharacteristic feature of this ancient fixture. McKenzie's try, from a 50-yard sprint following a chip from Philpott and pick up and dash by Fairn, upstaged an earlier one by Kapa, for Moseley, who led by nine points in 13 minutes.

Kapa, a New Zealand Maori international, capitalised on a back-on by Massey, a Moseley centre on debut against his former club, and narrowly beat Hall to the touchdown as the ball rolled over the line.

Preston, the Army full back, added the conversion to an earlier angled penalty goal on one of Moseley's rare appearances in the opposing half. Three penalty goals by Philpott in 14 minutes before half-time brought Coventry level.

Their superior skills in the pack and perseverance gained a first win on the ground for five years but even that does not obscure how far they must go to recapture former glory.

These clubs produced a series of classic matches yet their production line diminished to six internationals in the past decade.

They first met 115 years ago and the balance had tilted Moseley's way until Coventry achieved this win, only their second in the past ten meetings.

The gap is closing with Moseley's decline and an embryonic resurgence at Coventry, based inevitably on forward play.

They are also benefiting from overseas influence.

SCORERS: Moseley: Try: Kapa. Conversion: Preston. Penalty goals: Preston (2). Coventry: Try: McKenzie. Penalty goals: Philpott (3).

MOSELEY: R Preston; R Kapa, R Massey, L Boyle, D Spiller; A Houston, B Farley; M Linnett, T Beddow, S Crawford, R Harkness, G Pattinson, S Lloyd, R Barr, N Martin.

COVENTRY: M Fairn; L McKenzie, S Philpott, S Chapman, S Hall (rep: K Shaw); W Messer, S Thomas; G Tregligas, G Sharp, S Wilkes, G Smith, J Hyde, R Mackie, K Hickey, P Thomas.

Referee: M Bayliss (Gloucester).

No joy for the Foresters on a foray from their fastness

By DAVID HANDS

Gloucester 39
Lydney 9

THE West Country was a wet and windy place to be on Boxing Day; gales and driving rain interrupted the traditional holiday calendar but it takes more than the weather to stop Lydney emerging from the Forest of Dean to take another crack at the city club on a muddy Kingsholm.

As a comparison, Gloucester lie seventh at present in the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship; Lydney lie seventh in the third but mustered their best forces against a home XV including only two of their first-team regulars, Hamlin and Pascall. Even so, Gloucester retained a significant advantage at the set scrums and mauls which formed the base for four of their seven tries in a win by four goals, three tries and a penalty goal to a goal and a penalty.

The Lydney tight forwards creaked as loudly as the Kingsholm floodlight pylons in the high wind coming straight down the pitch which made it a game of one half. With the elements Gloucester scored 29 points; Lydney, unfortunately, despite a stream of penalty awards, could score only six when their turn came after the interval.

None the less, it was a good-humoured encounter appreciated by the crowd who were drenched five minutes after the start by an ominous downpour, in the middle of which Beck crossed the line while Lydney were dashing the water from their eyes. Neither side lacked ambition in terms of handling the ball but such hopes were doomed to failure in such difficult conditions (even though the rain subsequently held off).

Morris, who remained remarkably clean amid the muddied bodies which surrounded him, kicked Lydney's early penalty but, thereafter, there was no way for Lydney to break clear from their own 22. They were mauled back that distance for Spencer to score and the other back-row men, Miles (from a five-metre scrum) and Parry, from Windo's penalty charge, joined in.

Dee, the right wing, also dotted down in the corner but reserved his best effort for the second half. Lydney's cumbersome attack was held for some ten minutes by a gritty defence before Dee intercepted inside his own 22 and made the distant try-line into the teeth of the gale.

It was doubly sad for Lydney who had worked a neat midfield move just before, only to see Berry drop the ball 15 metres out, but their consolation came from Keith Davis, who nipped in to score from a charged-down kick while others stared in wild surmise.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Tries: Dee (2), Beck, Spencer, Miles, Parry, Sims. Conversions: Roberts (3), Hamlin. Penalty goal: Roberts. Lydney: Try: K Davis. Conversion: Morris. Penalty goal: Morris.

GLOUCESTER: M Roberts; C Dee, I Morgan, S Davis, J Perrins; M Hamlin, L Beck; A Windo, D Kearsey, R Pascall, D Spencer, C Guest, D Sims, D Parry, P Miles.

LYDNEY: A Berry; M Stubbs, D Edwards, R Mills, T Bick; P Morris, A Bebber; P Davis, N Neimes, N Macey, A Knox, J Wheach, R Yates, K Davis, R Carpenter.

Referee: D Leslie (Manchester).

Halliday plans to return in the colours of Harlequins

By DAVID HANDS

HARLEQUINS, who will lose seven players to England's training squad from January 3 to 7, anticipate having a former England player appearing in their ranks on January 5, though not necessarily in the first XV against Wasps. Simon Halliday has indicated to the club that he hopes to play that weekend, thus returning to his original senior club after gracing Bath's colours for so long. A change of job has brought him to London.

The centre's rehabilitation after an ankle operation in July has progressed well and he would not be resuming his playing career if he did not think he could challenge at the highest level.

That will be good news for Mike Davis, the club's director of coaching. He, too, is looking forward to giving closer attention to Harlequins after the frustration inherent in watching them perform in the first half of the season from afar. Davis prefers to describe his role as a co-ordinator rather than director, which implies rather more of a "hands-on" operation than has been the case

As a housemaster at Sherborne School, in Dorset, his first duty has been to the school's rugby during the winter term. "It has been frustrating," the former England lock, who later became coach of the grand-slam side, said. "Ideally I would go Mondays and Thursdays to club training, which gives you the chance to listen to players, talking through the problems which arise in matches.

"Not seeing them on Saturdays is difficult too. If the work they are doing in training during the week is unravelled in matches, you need to speak to players immediately, to get their first impressions. A lot of the job is just communication between players and coaches. It must be frustrating for the club too, not to have someone full-time, but perhaps it's not a bad substitute until they find the right person. When they do I'll take a back seat."

Halliday: London move

Davis's main function has been to ensure a coaching structure which goes right through the club, so that all players — particularly in the under-21 and youth teams — are coached adequately, not just the top two sides.

He was able to watch a lot of the younger players representing the first XV in the 21-20 defeat by Richmond last Saturday and there will be further opportunities for the likes of Gavin Thompson and Nick Killick over the next fortnight, against Cardiff and Wasps, when so many senior players are absent.

However, he is aware of the danger to the club's internationals of wrapping themselves in cotton wool, as Davis puts it, between England matches. Harlequins play Orrell in the league on January 12, England play Wales on January 19 and the following weekend brings the Pilkington Cup match with Gloucester. "You can get out of the groove if you start picking your matches," he said.

"The league has sharpened people up and it is possible to lose that edge if you rest between internationals. You can't switch on and off, rugby's not that sort of game. Because of the contact involved, you need to take the knocks which are so often the fatiguing element of a game." Clearly it will be no harlequinade in January.

Harrogate pack proves too much of a handful

By MICHAEL STEVENSON

Roundhay 0
Harrogate 25

ROUNDHAY, lying in the middle of the third division and missing their regular second row, entertained Harrogate who are fifth in the fourth division north, but found the power of the visitors' forwards something of a handful at Chandos Park yesterday, losing by three goals, a try and a dropped goal to nil.

Harrogate have an excellent pack and no one played better than their veteran flanker, Fawcett, who was playing his 501st game for the club and seems to have been around since the broken time payment controversy. Considering the awesome conditions with gale-blown rain, there was some good rugby, though the high-kick and hunt syndrome was predictably prominent, as the end-to-end wind, viciously cold, blew Harrogate into a commanding lead.

Greenwood, a Roundhay man who coaches here but normally plays for Nottingham, was prominent initially with some thrustful running but Harrogate led when the stand-off half, Zoing, dropped a neat goal before his long, diagonal kick went into touch by the corner flag. The ruck was won; Hopkinson went for the line and again Harrogate were first to the loose ball, as Zoing picked up, dived over and converted.

Roundhay's next wound was self-inflicted. Baker ripped the ball off Breakwell, who was attempting a break, and, with Fawcett an efficient link, Caldwell received 40 yards out with only the fullback to beat, so that a try for his wing, Atkins, was a formality and Zoing again converted.

The final first-half agony closely followed, when Roundhay were adjudged to have collapsed the scrum in a push-over situation and Zoing converted the penalty try to open up a 21-0 interval lead.

An horrendous hailstorm added to their other problems early in the second half but Harrogate shrugged it off with a superb thrust by Caldwell, though no try resulted as he could not link with his wing, Crossland. But more points came, when Hopkinson touched down a pushover try, the result of the winner's consistently efficient scrummaging. Even facing the gale Harrogate camped in the Roundhay 22 for most of the game's final quarter though there were a couple of spirited counter-attacks which came to nothing.

SCORERS: Harrogate: Tries: Zoing, Atkins, Hopkinson, penalty try. Conversions: Zoing (3). Dropped goal: Zoing.

ROUNDHAY: J Battle; G White, S Harrison, R Gordon, J Holroyd; D Breakwell, A Turton; D Hayle, G Davies, S Holdsworth, M Francis, R Sykes, R Walker, H Greenwood, M Greenwood.

HARROGATE: I Hassell; S Crossland, A Caldwell, S Towse, E Atkins; R Zoing, W Freeman; A Simpson, R Whyley, J Woodthorpe, J Hopkinson, S Croft, M Green, S Baker, S Fawcett.

Referee: D Watson (Nottingham).

Yesterday's results

Aberavon	22	Neath	29
Bridgend	14	Maesteg	4
Cardiff	14	Pontypridd	6
Ebbw Vale	10	Abertillery	10
Fylde	4	Preston G	6
Gloucester	37	Lydney	9
Llanelli	48	L Wanderers	6
Moseley	12	Coventry	13
N Gosforth	34	Northern	4
Northampton	62	Nuneaton	0
Pontypool	37	Tredegar	6
Roundhay	0	Harrogate	25
Swansea	20	S Wales Pol	15
Waterloo	7	Birkenhead Pk	10
Watsonians	4	Heriots FP	7

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: Club matches: Beckenham 18, Bromley 0; Cheltenham 16, Strood 3; Finchley 6, Barnet 16; Old Colfeians 38, Old Shootershillians 4; Old Freemens U-30 3, Older Freemen 3; Old Wrightians 12, Old Alleynians 22.

SOUTH WEST: Club matches: Dings Crusaders 18, Ashley Down Old Boys 0, Falmouth 0, Penryn 22; Hayle 3, St Ives 33; Helston 10, Exeter 14; Launceston 4, Okehampton 11; Newquay Hornets 10, Chairman's XV 0; Penzance Newlyn 4, Truro 6; Redruth 13, Camborne 3; Redruth Albany 30, President's XV 12; St Ives Nomads 24, Bideford Old Boys 14; Stoke 14, Veor 13; Saltash 34, St Blazey 0; Sherborne Old Boys 6, Blackbridge Camels 8, Bodmin 10; Wellington 4, Wellington 24; Weston Super Mare 16, Bridgwater and Albion 9; Weston Hornets 8, Weston Utd 0; Winscombe 18, Chedder 7.

MIDLANDS: Club matches: Alcester 16, Burnham 9; Bilston 9, Bradford Salem 12; Blaydon 8, Ryton 0; Bridlington 36, Esher 0; Broughton Park 20, Sale 7; Clackheaton 11, Old Brodleians 11; Durham City 28, Sunderland 4; Eccles 15, Leigh 6; Gateshead Fell 22, North Durham 0; Huddersfield 0, Halifax 20; Keighley 55, Bradford & Bingley 13; Kendal 11, Vale of Lune 7; Kirkby Lonsdale 18, Camforth 10; Middlesbrough 15, Redcar 7; Moortown 8, Bramley 8; Manchester 24, Wilmslow 3; North Ribblesdale 3, Wharfedale 15; Novocastrians 9, Morpeth 19; Pocklington 7, Old Pocklingtonians 32; Rockcliff 23, Percy Park 3; Selby 7, Eccles 12; Skipton 4, Ilkley 21; Tynedale 24, Crofton 4.

Keyes stakes claim for international recall

By GEORGE ACE

BRIAN Smith's place in the Ireland team is under threat this season. He is under pressure from Ralph Keyes, who was capped against England at Twickenham in 1986.

Smith, an Australian in his final year at Oxford University and playing with Leicester, won four caps at stand-off half for Ireland last season, missing out against England at Twickenham, where he was replaced by Peter Russell, of Ulster, after making his first appearance against New Zealand.

Keyes, aged 28, the Constitution stand-off half, has played an important role in his club's performance in the All Ireland League first division championship. They are the leaders with ten points from six games in this the competition's inaugural season.

He has also just completed an impressive inter-provincial series with Munster, who finished runners-up to Ulster after defeating Leinster 27-12 at Lansdowne Road. Keyes outplayed Smith in that match and the Australian also struggled in the other matches against Ulster and Connacht.

Smith's much-heralded decision to play for Ireland last season has not quite worked out as well as many expected. Those who opposed his right to play for Ireland, after he had represented Australia in the 1987 World Cup, are already calling for Keyes to replace him.

Both players leave for the Algarve next Thursday for a brief training stint with a party minus such notables as Lenihan, Mullin, Crossan, McCoy, O'Hara and Sexton. There are still a few places to be decided and the B match against Scotland on Saturday may settle a few issues.

Logic installs Welsh boys as favourites

THE Australian schoolboys play the first international of their tour at Cardiff today, against the Welsh Schools who provided the one genuine glimmer of optimism for their country during 1990 (David Hands writes).

They went to New Zealand and did what no other Welsh side has done, by emerging unbeaten and with a 17-11 win over New Zealand schools to their credit. The Australians, too, beat New Zealand but in Sydney and only by two points.

Philip Wintle, the Cynffig centre, has been forced to withdraw from the Welsh side because of a hamstring injury and his place goes to Dafydd Bevan (Ysgol Bro Myrddin).

● The England lock forward, Wade Dooley, came through his first match in five weeks, following an operation on a knee, for Preston Grasshoppers in a dour 6-4 win over Fylde.

Rain hazards for Scotland

MOST of Scotland's top matches were washed out by the heavy rain that fell on Christmas night (Alan Lorimer writes). In the south of Scotland, where snow was a further hazard, all three of the Bank of Scotland Border league games Jala v Melrose, Selkirk v Kelso and Hawick v Jed-Forest were cancelled.

At Raeburn Place the annual match between Edinburgh academicals and the Co-optimists fell victim to the weather, while in the West of Scotland the game between Glasgow High and Kelvinside [illegible]

YACHTING

Smith has the edge in a flying start

From Bob Ross
IN SYDNEY

LAWRIE Smith, the skipper of Rothmans, made a perfectly-judged start in a crowded harbour here yesterday to lead the fleet of 105 yachts in the Sydney to Hobart race out to sea. The leaders were off Jervis Bay and had made good time, Rothmans averaging 8.7 knots.

Last night, nine hours after the start, the 80ft British maxi led by a mile from Condor (Tony Paola), with Ragamuffin (Syd Fischer) another mile behind. Rothmans was placed sixth on corrected time and the other UK entry in the race, the One Tonner, Beyond Thunderdome (Mark Beeson), was nineteenth. The leader on corrected time was the Dubois one tonner, Western Port Venture (Peter Grant), from Melbourne. The start of the 630-mile classic, from one of the most confined areas of the harbour between Shark Island and Bradley's Head, less than a mile shore to shore and with limited room for manoeuvre, was made complex by the wind direction and strength: southeast at 18 knots.

Smith began his run from towards the Bradley's Head end of the line, avoided the congestion at the favoured island end, but started with full speed right on the gun to give the Rob Humphreys-designed Rothmans an immediate lead.

As the fleet shook free from the packed line and began to two-sail reach the 2.2 miles down the harbour to the turning mark at the Heads, Rothmans had a complication: the 65ft Sydney pocket maxi Bobsled (Geoff Bush/Nick Feros), jumped on her wake for a free ride from the bigger and faster yacht and Rothmans towed her almost all the way.

Bobsled fell off the wake when she set a spinnaker but was still second around the mark within six boat lengths of Rothmans. Rothmans did not set a spinnaker but many of the other yachts did. Peter Kurts' Farr Two Tonner, Madeline's Daughter, which had the best start at the island end, was well placed on corrected time at the Heads.

The wind freshened to 20 to 22 knots as the yachts began to beat south. Rothmans and the two powerful Sydney maxis, Ragamuffin and Condor, soon established a good lead at the head of the fleet.

The short and sharp seas produced casualties. Two of the smallest yachts in the fleet, both new half tonners from Melbourne, broke masts through rigging failure: the brand new Einstein, designed by Daniel Andrieu of France, co-owned by brothers, Clive and Stephen Purtell, who launched her only two days before the race and Zumdish, designed by the Australian, Robert Hick, for Harry Hertzberg.

DISTANCES TO FINISH (at 22.00 yesterday): 1, Rothmans (L Smith, GB), 552.1 miles; 2, Condor (T Paola), 553.1; 3, Ragamuffin (S Fischer), 554.1; 4, Brindabella (G Snow), 556.2; 5, Helsal II (K Flint), 559.9; 6, Hammer of Queensland (A Bloore), 564.2. Handicap positions: IOR: 1, Western Port Venture (P Grant); 2, Dry White (D Leitch); 3, Prime Factor (R Brady); 4, Madeline's Daughter (P Kurts); 5, Sagacious (G Appleby); 6, Rothmans. IMS class II: 1, Dry White; 2, Hauple (T Johnson); 3, Dow Air (Farr 130 syndicate). IMS class III: 1, Brindabella; 2, Dr Fire (D Coulter); 3, Rattle and Hum (N Kishimoto, Japan).

Jeantot is facing up to realities

Sydney

PHILIPPE Jeantot, the Frenchman who won both the first and second BOC single-handed round the world races, is not enjoying being in fourth place halfway through the latest one (Bob Ross writes).

Jeantot's Crédit Agricole was the only truly radical yacht in the fleet of 17 starters in 1982-3, which he won by 11 days 14 hours from Bertie Reed, of South Africa, with a time of 159 days 2hr 26min for the 27,000-mile voyage.

Several of the fleet of 25 starters in the second race four years later were derivatives of Jeantot's yacht but he still won in Crédit Agricole III by a three-and-a-half day margin from Titouan Lamazou, of France, in 134 days 5hr 23min 56sec.

Now, he is 3 days 10hr 9min 46sec behind the race leader, John Martin, of South Africa. Martin's Angelo Lavranos design at 25ft beam is the widest of the 60-footers in this race. The other two French yachts ahead of Jeantot's, Groupe Sceta (Christophe Augin) and Generali Concorde (Alain Gautier), are near sister Groupe Finot designs that are slightly wider in beam and look a little more extreme in the shallow, dishy nature of their hull form than the Marc Lombard design Crédit Agricole IV. The shapes are dictated by the ability of the BOC racers to carry water ballast and have proven extremely fast compared to conventional offshore yachts.

Jeantot, who says that his yacht was designed to excel in the 50-knot winds of the Southern Ocean, which were not consistently experienced on the Cape Town to Sydney leg this time, said: "Today, the way to win is find the fastest route from one point to another. Four years ago, there was a bit more difference between the boats than today." While Jeantot and other sailors in the race concede there is a danger that if the wide boats capsize they may stay inverted, none of the leaders favour restrictions on the beam-to-length ratio in future yachts in this event.

Expected to finish today are Isabelle Autissier, of France, and Josh Hall, of Britain, on New Spirit of Ipswich, who is in second place in class II (under 50ft overall).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan prove they will not surrender title without fight

By KEITH MACKLIN

St Helens 15
Wigan................................ 28

THREE tries in ten frantic minutes in a second half of fluctuating fortunes enabled Wigan, the champions, to restore their faltering Stones Bitter championship challenge by moving into third place.

Wigan had to come from behind as St Helens led 7-2 midway through the first half and 15-14 early in the second half. St Helens dominated the early minutes of both halves in such a way that Wigan's margin of victory came as a shock.

The St Helens majority in the crowd of just over 13,000 vented their spleen on the referee, Robin Whitfield, when he allowed Wigan's final try by Hanley after the Wigan movement had twice seemed to break down near the line, only for Whitfield to wave on play.

The seemingly unthinkable prospect of relegation is a possibility for St Helens. They had the outstanding forwards in the powerful prop, Ward, and the industrious and skilful Cooper at loose forward, but they seem unable to maintain any momentum or consistency in attack or defence.

The teams produced fine, open entertainment despite the ferocious wind which took over from torrential rain. It was Wigan's greater staying power which enabled them to shrug off the St Helens' second-half revival with the 14-point blitz into the teeth of the wind.

St Helens scored an excellent first try with Forber and Cooper opening the way for Loughlin to dive over. Loughlin added the goal, and when Cooper dropped a goal minutes later St Helens seemed comfortably on top.

However, the former All Black, Botica, recently returned from long-term injury, landed two penalties and scored a spectacular try. He fielded a kick-through from Loughlin, exchanged passes with his fellow New Zealander, Iro, and ran 75 metres to touch down in the corner.

This staggered St Helens and Betts brushed aside four attempted tackles to send in Edwards, Botica's goal making it 14-7 to Wigan at half-time.

St Helens resumed full of fire and purpose, and with the wind behind them. loughlin kicked two penalties, and St Helens took the lead as the mighty Ward burst open a gap and Bishop sent in Veivers.

At 15-14, St Helens again seemed in command, but the situation changed rapidly. Bishop threw a careless pass inside his own 22-metre area, Hanley scooped it up, and Edwards sent in Iro.

Goulding, deputising at scrum half for the injured Gregory, sent a long pass to the wing for Myers to dive over, and Wigan sealed victory with that scrappy final try to which Botica added the goal.

SCORERS: St Helens: Tries: Loughlin, Veivers. Goals: Loughlin (3). Dropped goal: Cooper. Wigan: Tries: Botica, Edwards, Iro, Myers, Hanley. Goals: Botica (4).

ST HELENS: G Connolly; T Ropati, P Veivers, P Loughlin, L Quirk; J Griffiths, P Bishop; S Evans (sub: J Neill), P Groves, K Ward, B Dwyer, P Forber, S Cooper.

WIGAN: S Hampson; D Myers, K Iro, D Bell, F Botica; S Edwards, R Goulding; I Lucas, M Dermott, A Platt, P Clarke (sub: G Stazicker), D Betts, E Hanley.

Referee: R Whitfield (Widnes).

Bruising victory for Widnes

By KEITH MACKLIN

TO SAY that Warrington and Widnes had a warm-up for Saturday's Regal Trophy semi-final is to put it mildly. A typically fierce derby encounter saw Widnes win 6-2 in a bruising game in which O'Sullivan, of Warrington, and Moriarty, of Widnes, were sent off, and the Widnes hooker, McKenzie, was taken off with severe head cuts.

McKenzie's injury adds further problems for the Widnes coach, Doug Laughton, who will be without the league's leading points scorer, Jonathan Davies, for Saturday's semi-final after a training injury which left the Welshman with a torn thigh muscle.

Davies ruptured thigh muscles after slipping on the wet pitch while practising goalkicking and the Widnes general manager, John Stringer, said: "It was a freak accident." Davies, the former Welsh rugby union captain, is not expected to play again for at least another month.

Warrington led 2-0 at half-time through a penalty goal by Rudd, and it was a try by David Hulme which took the hard-earned points to Widnes and enabled them to maintain their championship challenge to the leaders Hull.

Leeds demolished an unexpectedly feeble challenge by their neighbours, Bradford Northern, winning 26-8 after scoring 14 points in the opening quarter with tries by Harkin and Heugh with three goals from Schofield. To add to Northern's problems their aggressive forward, Fairbank, was sent off.

Featherstone Rovers and **Wakefield Trinity** fought a keen match at Post Office Road, a late try by Simpson enabling Rovers to squeeze through 14-8.

The ambition of the **Hull** coach, Brian Smith, to see his team at the top of the first division when he leaves to join Sydney club, St George, in a fortnight's time seems a comfortable bet. Hull beat **Castleford** 22-6 at the Boulevard, with the Great Britain wing, Paul Eastwood, scoring a try and kicking five goals, and the French international captain, Patric Entat, crowning a fine personal performance with a try. Richard Price scored the other Hull try. For Castleford, Steadman touched down and added the goal points.

Oldham came back with a tremendous second half rally against **Rochdale Hornets**. Rochdale led 13-2 at half-time, but the Oldham coach, Tony Barrow, goaded his side to an 18-13 win.

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Featherstone 14, Wakefield 8; Hull 22, Castleford 6; Leeds 26, Bradford 8; Oldham 18, Rochdale 13; St Helens 15, Wigan 28; Warrington 2, Widnes 6. **Postponed:** Hull KR v Sheffield.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull	12	10	0	2	249	128	20
Widnes	11	9	0	2	251	140	18
Wigan	11	7	1	3	274	163	15
Leeds	12	7	0	5	305	182	14
Bradford	13	7	0	6	246	244	14
Hull KR	12	6	1	5	198	259	13
Wakefield	10	6	0	4	163	164	12
Castleford	12	6	0	6	245	266	12
Featherstne	12	5	1	6	204	235	11
St Helens	11	5	0	6	247	215	10
Oldham	13	5	0	8	222	281	10
Warrington	13	4	0	9	188	184	8
Sheffield	12	3	1	8	201	279	7
Rochdale	12	1	0	11	149	384	2

SECOND DIVISION: Barrow 34, Carlisle 4; Huddersfield 20, Chorley 6; Dewsbury 6, Batley 4; Doncaster 4, Ryedale York 11; Keighley 8, Halifax 12. **Postponed:** Bramley v Hunslet; Leigh v Salford; Swinton v Trafford Borough; Whitehaven v Workington.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salford	12	12	0	0	432	82	24
Halifax	14	11	0	3	444	166	22
Swinton	12	11	0	1	276	154	22
Ryedale-Yk	14	10	1	3	297	147	21
Carlisle	13	9	1	3	335	221	19
Leigh	12	9	0	3	359	147	18
Huddersfld	13	8	1	4	283	218	17
Fulham	13	8	0	5	178	189	16
Workingtn	13	7	1	5	217	179	15
Doncaster	14	7	0	7	168	215	14
Trafford	13	6	0	7	267	228	12
Hunslet	14	6	0	8	273	346	12
Keighley	13	6	0	7	232	257	12
Whitehaven	13	6	0	7	194	279	12
Dewsbury	13	5	0	8	164	177	10
Barrow	13	4	0	9	191	367	8
Batley	12	3	0	9	126	214	6
Bramley	12	3	0	9	[illegible]	[illegible]	6
Chorley	13	2	0	11	169	398	4
Nottingham	13	1	0	12	154	458	2
Runcorn	13	0	0	13	121	406	0

VOLLEYBALL

Rewarding draw for shock team

By RODDY MACKENZIE

THE third division club, Su Ragazzi II, which provided the shock of the third round by knocking out Team Fife, from the first division, is likely to meet the holders, **Krystal Klear**, in the quarter-finals of the Royal Bank Scottish men's cup.

The Glasgow side has been drawn against the winners of the only third-round tie yet to be decided — Krystal Klear v **Glasgow Gregg**. But Klear will be favourites to come through against the second-division side.

Tommy Dowens, the Su Ragazzi coach, is unperturbed about the prospect of meeting the holders and believes that the experience will be a valuable one for his side, which has an average age of only 19.

Kinleith Plant, last season's beaten finalists, face **Elliott Sports Jets** in an all-Edinburgh quarter-final and they are in the same half of the draw as **Team Novasport**, the leaders in the first division at the season's halfway stage. Novasport travel to face **Coatbridge** while in the remaining quarter-final tie, **Team Lander** will play host to **Bellshill Cardinals**.

In the draw for the quarter-finals of the women's Scottish cup, the holders, **Adscreen Kyle**, have been paired with **Provincial Insurance** in what will be the tie of the round. Provincial started the season tamely but are in the reckoning for the title, although success in the cup might be a more realistic aim.

Under Bob Stokes, who has coached Whitburn and Scottish Farm to major trophies, Provincial are developing into a formidable unit. Kyle, however, have lost only one match in league and cup for over a year and with home advantage will be an intimidating proposition.

Glasgow Powerhouse, the only unbeaten team in the women's first division, are at home to Aberdeen's **Hazlehead**, which should be a straightforward enough match for them while **Krystal Klear**, the only second division team left, are away to **Elliott Sports Jets**.

QUARTER-FINAL DRAWS: Men: Krystal Klear or Glasgow Gregg v Su Ragazzi II; Team Lander v Bellshill Cardinals; Coatbridge v Team Novasport; Kinleith Plant v Elliott Sports Jets. **Women:** Adscreen Kyle v Provincial Insurance; Glasgow Powerhouse v Hazlehead; Balmoral Tullos v Coatbridge; Elliott Sports Jets v Krystal Klear.
Tie to be played on February 3.

SQUASH RACKETS

Rift with referees is growing wider

By COLIN McQUILLAN

THERE are moves afoot to introduce harsher discipline against an increasing number of professional players who are behaving in a manner deemed detrimental to the game. But would draconian measures deal with the core of the problem?

"We do not need these idiots on court," Chris Dittmar, president of the International Squash Players' Association (ISPA), said. "We have to get a lot tougher."

The same tone coloured a recent anonymous contribution, "View From the Midlands", in a Squash Referees' Society newsletter. "Squash has become one big yawn because of player misbehaviour and incessant stoppages," it said. Referees and players thus appear to be in sympathy but, in reality, barely communicate.

Referees are an amateur band who give their time and interest to a game they admire, only to meet personal abuse, contempt and increasing public criticism from players of relentless professional outlook not always above exploiting differences of interpretation to their own advantage.

Player condemnation of match control in thewomen's world championships in Octoberwas almost universal, yet the referees would admit little fault in their standards and even held their own morale-raising meetings.

Cast as untrustworthy policemen rather than guardians of the players' rules, referees throughout the world are withdrawing under the pressure into their own disconnected community. It is a largely middle-aged community, which includes few former players of note.

There were top international referees at the women's world championships who were employed in assessing other officials for promotion to higher grade, rather than in handling the most important women's matches of the year.

Perhaps the strongest indictment of the modern refereeing system comes from an English referee who admits that he deliberately amended his approach to one match to satisfy the known bias of assessors he knew to be judging his "performance" in the chair.

Young players are disinclined to show respect for what they often see as a self-serving bureaucracy more interested in satisfying its own criteria of merit than in controlling the game in play.

This problem may need addressing properly before any harsher regime of discipline can make significant impact.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Oldham v Wigan (7.0).
VAUXHALL LEAGUE: First division: Lewes v Metropolitan Police (7.30).

RUGBY UNION

Club match

Leicester v Barbarians (2.45) ....

RUGBY LEAGUE

SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE: Keighley v Trafford Borough (7.30).

SPORT ON TV

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: BSB 17.00-18.00: National Football League.
BASEBALL: Eurosport 07.30-08.30: Major League from the United States.
BASKETBALL: Screensport 12.00-14.30 and 20.15-23.00: Haarlem week from The Netherlands.
BOXING: Screensport 14.30-16.00. BSB 20.00-22.00 and 00.30-02.30 (tomorrow): Douglas v Holyfield.
CRICKET: BBC2 16.00-16.30: Second test: Highlights of Australia v England.
DOCUMENTARY: Eurosport 13.30-15.00: Story of the 1988 Winter Olympics.
EQUESTRIANISM: Eurosport 11.00-12.00: Show jumping from Olympia.
EUROSPORT NEWS: Eurosport 18.30-19.00 and 23.00-23.30.
FOOTBALL: BSB 14.00-16.00: Scottish league. Screensport 18.00-19.00: Argentinian league. Eurosport 19.00-21.00 and 21.30-22.30: World XI v Brazil, and The History of Football.
GOLF: C4 11.30-12.30: Pro-celebrity challenge.
ICE HOCKEY: Screensport 23.00-01.00: United States v Soviet Union.
ICE SKATING: Screensport 07.00-08.00: Skate Canada, figure skating.
MOBILE MOTOR SPORT NEWS: Eurosport 18.00-18.30.
MOTORCYCLING: Screensport 17.30-18.00: Superbikes.
MOTOR SPORT: Screensport 08.30-10.00 and 16.30-17.30: Macau touring cars grand prix, 1990 Essen motor show and German rally championships. BSB 22.30-23.30.
RACING: C4 12.30-15.10: 12.45, 1.15, 1.45, 2.20 and 2.50 from Kempton. BSB 13.30-14.00 and 23.30-00.30.
SNOOKER: Screensport 10.00-12.00: World championship highlights.
SPORTSDESK: BSB 13.25, 18.00, 19.30, 22.00 and midnight.
SURFING: Eurosport 21.00-21.30: From Hawaii.
TENNIS: Eurosport 09.00-11.00 and 15.00-16.00: 1990 review and the Hopman Cup from Perth, Australia. BSB 16.00-17.00: Celebrity event.
TENPIN BOWLING: Screensport 08.00-08.30 and 19.00-20.15.
TRAMPOLINING: Eurosport 22.30-23.00: World championships.

Acrobatic exit for one young rider as Kempton serves up a memorable feast

IAN STEWART

Unavailing effort as John Brown attempts to stay aboard Copperite during the Butlin's Feltham Novices' Chase at Kempton yesterday

Desert Orchid rewards faithful

By MICHAEL SEELY
RACING CORRESPONDENT

DESERT Orchid put up one of the finest performances of his fabulous career when winning a record fourth King George VI Chase at a rain-soaked Kempton yesterday.

David Elsworth, already as much the stuff of legend for his extraordinary training skills as is Desert Orchid for his career of such long-lived brilliance, brushed away an involuntary tear in the winner's enclosure. "You just can't help it. This is a magic horse. There is nothing flashy about it. He's just so tough. He jumped and he stayed. He was flat out on his feet in the last half mile but so were the others."

The enormous crowd gave vent to spontaneous applause as the nation's idol entered the paddock, then cheered their heads off at the finish and gave three cheers for the flying grey around the unsaddling enclosure, cared nothing for statistics.

But just, for the record, in winning 33 of his 62 starts, the near 12-year-old has covered 155 miles over hurdles and fences and earnt £604,584 in win and place prize-money for his syndicate of four owners, of which Richard Burridge, the father of Desert Orchid's breeder, Jimmy, is the largest shareholder.

"David is a genius and he has said all along that the horse was back to his best and would win," said Burridge. "Today was the tribute to the horse himself, to David, Rodney Bolt, Janice Coyle and to all the team at Whitsbury. We're hoping to be back here for a fifth win next year."

The moment of truth on a misty afternoon arrived when Mark Perrett and Sabin Du Loir fell at the seventh fence from home, on the far side of the course, when about four lengths ahead of the favourite.

Side-stepping nimbly, Desert Orchid galloped on strongly up the straight to beat Toby Tobias by 12 lengths with The Fellow a further five lengths away third. Celtic Shot seven lengths away in fourth place, was the only other of the nine starters to complete the course.

Artic Call was withdrawn at the beginning of the afternoon because of the changed ground conditions. Richard Dunwoody, winning his second King George on Desert Orchid, said: "I was worried at the time and Sabin Du Loir was far enough clear for us to get out of trouble. I gave Dessie a breather on the final bend as there was such a strong head wind."

The exceptional merit of this win at Kempton, which suits Desert Orchid so well, can be gauged by the fact that Toby Tobias was only narrowly beaten in last season's Gold Cup and that The Fellow is one of the three best chasers in France.

"Without wanting to sound big-headed, I'm sure he'll improve further than this. It has been struggle to get him right," said Elsworth. "And although he isn't as good at Cheltenham, we might well go for the Gold Cup again. In the immediate future there are races like the Victor Chandler at Ascot and the Gainsborough Chase at Sandown."

The Grand National is definitely not on Desert Orchid's agenda. "Neither the owners nor I enjoyed all that controversy last year. So we probably won't enter him to avoid all that 'will he or won't he run' nonsense."

Toby Tobias moved to within two or three lengths of Desert Orchid before weakening on the run to the third last. "He ran out of petrol in the soft ground first time out," said a delighted Mark Pitman. "It will be a different story at Cheltenham."

The bookmakers unanimously concurred with the jockey's summing up in making Toby Tobias favourite for the Gold Cup at 4-1 with Desert Orchid generally on offer at 6-1.

The disappointment of the race was the running of Celtic Shot for whom heavy backing from 7-2 to 11-4 allowed Desert Orchid to start at the generous price of 9-4. The former champion hurdler made too many jumping mistakes and never promised to get in the race with a chance.

The other features of a high-class afternoon's racing were Nicky Henderson's novice chase double with Sparkling Flame and Remittance Man and the high-class performance of Wonder Man when winning the Royal Garden Hotel Handicap Hurdle under top weight of 12 stone for Jenny Pitman.

In the Butlin's Feltham Novices' Chase, Morley Street proved a disappointing favourite, once again jumping to the left before being pulled up approaching the third fence from home.

Toby Balding has now abandoned hopes of making the high-class six-year-old into a chaser and Morley Street is now top quoted at 5-1 for the Champion Hurdle. Dunwoody initiating the first leg of a treble on Sparkling Flame and was seen at his strongest and most patient before bringing the six-year-old up to master Ardbrin in the straight.

Afterwards, a delighted Henderson said: "He's really taken to this game. I thought we were throwing him in at the deep end at Lingfield and bringing him here was like going into a bottomless pit. We might now try and go for the Seagrams bonus by trying to win the Reynoldstown Chase at Ascot, the Sun Alliance at Cheltenham and Mumm Novices' Chase at Aintree. Some £50,000 awaits the horse to win all three races with £10,000 available if only two are collected.

Dunwoody went on to complete a personal treble when winning the Warners Wayward Lad Novices' Chase on the 2-1 on Remmitance Man.

Mrs Pitman was thrilled at having watched Wonder Man defy top weight so impressively to record his third win in succession in the Royal Garden Hotel Handicap Hurdle. "I fell in love with this horse when looking at him in the south of France two years ago. He needed time to grow into his frame and now he's really come to himself. We might go for The Ladbroke and the Champion Hurdle is now definitely on the agenda."

One of the easiest wins of the afternoon was Gaasid, whom Luke Harvey brought home ten lengths clear of New York Rainbow to win the opening Haven' Novices Hurdle for the in-form Reg Akhurst.

● Jimmy Fitzgerald, the Malton trainer, and his conditional jockey, James Burton, were each fined £300 by the Wetherby stewards yesterday. The officials deemed that Polar Region, out of the first six in the Christmas Novices' Hurdle, had not been allowed to run on its merits.

Firions Law heads Bowens treble

From OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT, DUBLIN

FIRIONS Law and Redundant Pal, the principals in a controversial match race over hurdles at Leopardstown last Christmas, were once again involved in a desperately tight finish to yesterday's Boxing Day feature, the Dennys Gold Medal Novices' Chase.

Redundant Pal landed three lengths clear over the final fence but Colin Bowens conjured up a last-gasp run out of Firions Law to get up on the line by a short head.

On their previous Christmas encounter, Redundant Pal had been the beaten 5-1 on favourite.

Firions Law was the middle leg of an 845-1 treble for trainer Victor Bowens and his son Colin. It had been initiated by the 20-1 outsider Galevilla Express, who looked well beaten when, after making most of the running, she surrendered the lead in the straight to the favourite Mounamara in the Dennys Juvenile Hurdle.

However, Mounamara does not like to be in front too long and Tommy Carmody, getting a chance mount in place of the suspended Tony Mullins, had come too soon and Galevilla Express rallied well to win by 1½ lengths. The winner is to be aimed at the *Daily Express* Triumph Hurdle.

Today's feature race is the £Ir30,000 *Findus* Handicap Chase and the big course tip at Leopardstown yesterday centred on Feltrim Hill Lad, who is in fine fettle according to his confident trainer, Patrick Griffin.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S EIGHT BOXING DAY MEETINGS

Kempton Park

Going: good to soft (good first two races)

12.45 (2m hdle) 1, GAASID (L Harvey, 7-2 fav); 2, New York Rainbow (R Dunwoody, 8-1); 3, Switch (B de Haan, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Bell Glass, 6 Young Pokey, 8 Le Cienaga (f), Granvillewaterford (4th), 10 Gran Alba (6th), 16 Classic Statement, 33 Frisco City (pu), Makarim, Rare Topaze (pu), Sailors Luck, Society Guest, Sylvan Tempest, Torus (pu), 50 Abenazar (pu), 66 Greenwine (5th), In The Zone, Prestons Glory. 20 ran. NR: Deadly Charm, Sharkouk. 10l, ¾l, 8l, 10l, 2l. R Akehurst at Whitcombe. Tote: £4.20; £1.90, £2.90, £6.10. DF: £29.30. CSF: £30.97.

1.15 (3m ch) 1, SPARKLING FLAME (R Dunwoody, 7-2); 2, Ardbrin (G Bradley, 5-2); 3, Man On The Line (L Harvey, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 13-8 fav Morley Street (pu), 6 Copperite (ur), 14 Tom Troubadour (f), 33 Shah's Choice (pu). 7 ran. 15l, dist. N Henderson at Lambourn. Tote: £3.70; £1.40, £1.90. DF: £5.90. CSF: £12.51.

1.45 (2m hdle) 1, WONDER MAN (M Pitman, 11-4 fav); 2, Old Virginia (L Harvey, 8-1); 3, Liadett (M Perrett, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Kerci, 8 M I Babe (5th), 9 Good Spark (pu), 12 Athsal (4th), 14 Sacre D'Or (6th), Stone Flake. 9 ran. 4l, 10l, hd, 7l, 30l. Mrs J Pitman at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £3.00; £1.60, £2.30, £1.70. DF: £8.40. CSF: £24.10. Tricast: £65.35.

2.20 KING GEORGE VI RANK CHASE
(Grade I: £45,190: 3m)

DESERT ORCHID gr g Grey Mirage - Flower Child (R Burridge) 11-11-10 R Dunwoody (9-4 fav, Mandarin's nap & Private Handicapper's top rating) 1.

Toby Tobias b g Furry Glen - Aurora Lady (Mrs E Hitchins) 8-11-10 M Pitman (4-1) 2.

The Fellow b g Italic - L'Oranaise (Marquesa de Moratalla) 5-11-10 A Kondrat (10-1) 3.

ALSO RAN: 11-4 Celtic Shot (4th), 7 Sabin Du Loir (f), 10 Nick The Brief (pu), 33 Esoy (pu), Panto Prince (pu), 100 Prize Asset (pu). 9 ran. NR: Arctic Call, Von Csadek. 12l, 5l, 7l. D Elsworth at Whitsbury. Tote: £2.90; £1.40, £1.50, £2.10. DF: £6.00. CSF: £11.02.

2.50 (2m 4f ch) 1, REMITTANCE MAN (R Dunwoody, 1-2 fav); 2, Calapaez (B Powell, 15-8 fav); 3, Amrullah (G Moore, 20-1). 3 ran. 12l, dist. N Henderson at Lambourn. Tote: £1.40. DF: £1.20. CSF: £1.84.

3.20 (3m hdle) 1, COMBERMERE (J Frost, 7-2); 2, Cawarth Park (R Dunwoody, 7-2); 3, Lapiette (L Harvey, 3-1 fav). ALSO RAN: 100-30 Dat Train (5th), 7 Wishlon (4th), 10 Highland Bounty (6th), 100 Welsh Bluebell (pu). 7 ran. NR: Stage Player, Sterna. 8l, 20l, 7l, 20l, 30l. R Frost at Buckfastleigh. Tote: £4.40; £2.30, £2.00. DF: £9.40. CSF: £16.33. Tricast: £36.11.

Jackpot: £1,830.90. Placepot: £37.90.

Wetherby

Going: soft

1.0 (2m hdl) 1, RODEO STAR (N Doughty, 8-11 fav); 2, No More The Fool (R Fahey, 7-1); 3, Another Fountain (K Jones, 50-1). ALSO RAN: 8 Wibble-Wobble, 9 Far More (6th), 10 Lowlance, 14 Cavalcanti, Doctor Syntax, 16 Polar Region, 25 Dawaam, Diamond Path (5th), March Ahead (4th), Secret Friend, 33 Ensharp. 14 ran. NR: Royal Estimate, Runun. 15l, 10l, 4l, 1½l, 3l. N Tinkler at Malton. Tote: £2.20; £1.50, £1.80, £24.10. DF: £7.70. CSF: £9.48.

1.30 (3m 100yd ch) 1, MANHATTAN CHASE (N Doughty, 3-1); 2, [illegible] (R [illegible], 14-1); 3, [illegible] (L Wyer, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 11-10 fav Fighting Jessica (ur), 14 Steve Time (pu), 16 Sharp Opinion (5th), 33 Intersia (4th). 7 ran. NR: Ardbrin. 6l, 10l, 10l, 20l. G Richards at Greystoke. Tote: £3.40; £19.00, £3.20. DF: £19.00. CSF: £36.70.

2.0 (2m 4f 100yd ch) 1, OLD APPLEJACK (T Reed, 13-2); 2, Ibn Majed (M Dwyer, 11-2); 3, Nos Na Gaoithe (L Wyer, 3-1 jt-fav). ALSO RAN: 3 jt-fav Bad Trade (4th), 6 The Demon Barber (5th), 8 Vallerstown (6th), 16 Handy Trick (ur), 33 Impertain. 8 ran. 2½l, 3½l, 4l, 15l, 25l. J Johnson at Crook. Tote: £6.60; £1.80, £1.80, £1.40. DF: £21.70. CSF: £37.53. Tricast: £115.38.

2.30 (2m hdl) 1, PAPAJOTO (L Wyer, 11-8); 2, Leigh Boy (M Dwyer, 8-13 fav). 2 ran. NR: Hill Street, Valiant Boy. 1½l. M O'Neill at Lydiate. Tote: £2.10.

3.0 (3m 100yd ch) 1, BLUFF KNOLL (G Harker, 2-1 fav); 2, Stay On Tracks (Mr K Johnson, 6-1); 3, The Thinker (N Doughty, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Durham Edition (5th), Aston Express (fell), Birling Jack (pu), 12 Bob Tisdall (4th). 7 ran. NR: Nick The Brief, Mr Frisk. ½l, 6l, 15l, 1l. R Brewis at Belford. Tote: £3.30; £2.10, £3.70. DF: £12.30. CSF: £13.06. Tricast: £71.73.

3.35 (2m hdle) 1, LE TEMERAIRE (M Hill, 11-4); 2, Blacksburg (M Dwyer, 11-8 fav); 3, Damenour (L O'Hara, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Birstwith (5th), 12 Wimborne (4th), 33 Four Alls Lady (pu), Abha Guya (pu). 7 ran. NR: Skeletor, Antiguan Smile, Banana Boat. 15l, 30l, 7l, 20l. N Tinkler at Malton. Tote: £2.80; £1.60, £1.60. DF: £2.70. CSF: [illegible]. Tricast: £10.97.

Placepot: £51.90.

Wincanton

Going: good

12.30 (2m hdle) 1, SWEET N' TWENTY (J Lower, 21-20 fav); 2, Ktolo (J Leach, 9-2); 3, Doreen's Pride (A Mulholland, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 8 Binny Grove (5th), 11 Lady Electric (4th), 12 Plentiful (6th), 16 Broad Ryde, 20 Anna Valley, 25 Percy's Pet (f), 33 Classy Miss (ur), Miss Powerhouse (pu), 50 Chasing Gold (pu), Electress, Greek Ballet, Mayfair Mist, Merry Marigold, Ship Of Gold, Stanford's Joy. 18 ran. NR: Easter Baby. 30l, 8l, 2l, ½l, 2½l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £3.00; £1.50, £2.50, £2.00. DF: £4.10. CSF: £7.40.

1.0 (2m ch) 1, GAME DOWN (A Tory, 11-4); 2, Skylark Wonder (S Donohoe, 12-1); 3, [illegible] Zulu (C Maude, 5-2). ALSO RAN: 11-10 fav Clean Through (4th). 4 ran. 1½l, 2½l, sh hd. R Hodges at Somerton. Tote: £3.10. DF: £11.00. CSF: £19.61.

1.30 (2m 5f hdle) 1, WESTWAY (J Lower, 5-2 jt-fav); 2, [illegible] (J [illegible], 12-1); 3, Nick The Dreamer (Mr G Clifford, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 5-2 jt-fav Marradong Brook (4th), 7 Mosagera, 12 Winter Haven, Royal Astronaut, Admiral's Leap, 16 Torkabar, 20 Alphasonic, Desert Palm (6th), 33 Arctic Baron (5th), 50 Royal Craftsman (pu), Dapping, Star Of Kuwait (pu). 15 ran. NR: Pop Dancer. 7l, 15l, 10l, 15l, 2l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £4.90; £2.00, £3.40, £1.80. DF: £41.20. CSF: £36.58. Tricast: £132.11.

2.0 (2m 5f ch) 1, SIPPING TIM (J Lower, 8-13 fav); 2, Certain Style (M Richards, 7-2); 3, [illegible] (C Maude, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 20 [illegible] (4th), 50 Emma Pepper (pu), 66 Regento (pu). 6 ran. NR: Zummerset. 8l, 30l, 7l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £1.80; £1.30, £1.40. DF: £2.00. CSF: £3.19.

2.35 (3m 1f ch) 1, UNDER OFFER (M Richards, 6-1); 2, [illegible] Lad (J Kavanagh, 5-4 fav); 3, Golden [illegible] (T Grantham, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Chancery Buck (pu), 7 Rare Bid (5th), 8 Roscoe Harvey (pu), 14 Blue Dart (4th), 33 Imperial Champagne (pu). 8 ran. 8l, 30l, 20l, 6l. P Bailey at Wilsford-cum-Lake. Tote: £7.10; £1.50, £1.40, £1.40. DF: £6.90. CSF: £18.93. Tricast: £85.40.

3.5 (2m hdle) 1, MONDAY CLUB (J Lower, 4-5 fav); 2, The [illegible] (C Maude, 9-1); 3, Wadewick Lady (M Hoad, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Mister Oddy (4th), 6 Susan Henchard, 12 Andy Boy (6th), Faux Pavilion (pu), 20 Palm Swift (5th), 50 Carpe Diem, Sovereign Deed, King Of The Clouds, Nelsac. 12 ran. NR: Prime Warden. 20l, 10l, 2½l, 20l, 1½l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £1.90; £1.30, £1.80, £11.80. DF: £11.80. CSF: £10.08. Tricast: £145.21.

Placepot: £56.15.

Huntingdon

Going: soft

12.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Drumhead (R Rowe, 5-4 fav); 2, Brave Setanta (9-1); 3, Rio Haina (16-1). 14 ran. NR: After The Number, Viascorit, Scole. 1½l, 25l. P Walwyn. Tote: £2.80; £1.60, £2.40, £4.80. DF: £24.80. CSF: £15.29.

1.0 (2m 200yd ch) 1, Wide Boy (S Smith Eccles, 2-9 fav); 2, Tochenka (3-1). 2 ran. 4l. P Bailey. Tote: £1.20.

1.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Singlesole (A Carroll, 4-1); 2, De Profundis (15-1); 3, Extra Grand (7-2 jt-fav). Emsee-H 7-2 jt-fav. 16 ran. NR: Kileshin, Montagnard, Spirit Of Kibris. 8l, 20l. Mrs P Sly. Tote: £5.60; £2.00, £3.90, £2.10. DF: £52.70. CSF: £88.24.

2.0 (2m 4f ch) 1, Good Tonic (R Rowe, 5-2); 2, Forced March (7-2); 3, Pendennis (6-4 fav). 5 ran. NR: [illegible], 25l, 15l. T Etherington. Tote: £3.80; £1.60, £1.80. DF: £10.60. CSF: £11.05.

2.30 (3m ch) 1, On The Twist (D Murphy, 7-4 fav); 2, John O'Dee (14-1); 3, Buddy Holly (3-1). 9 ran. NR: Fiesta Dance. 10l, 10l. F Murphy. Tote: £3.60; £1.30, £2.30, £1.10. DF: £13.50. CSF: £23.42. Tricast: £61.94.

3.0 (2m 100yd hdle) 1, Kind'A Smart (A S Smith, 4-1); 2, Muirfield Village (11-4 fav); 3, Northern Barry (8-2). 10 ran. NR: Clos Du Bois. 5l, 2½l. K Morgan. Tote: £7.30; £2.00, £1.80, £2.60. DF: £7.70. CSF: £17.28. Tricast: £52.05. After a stewards' enquiry, result stood.

Placepot: £41.95.

Market Rasen

Going: good to soft (back straight good)

12.45 (3m ch) 1, In The Breeze (C Kates, 5-1); 2, Lyningham (25-1). Laurie-O 2-1 fav. Only two finished. 4 ran. NR: Fighting Jessica, Decent Man, Kilcooney Forrest, Remember Josh. ¾l. P Blockley. Tote: £4.70. DF: £18.60. CSF: £42.54.

1.15 (2m 6f ch) 1, Hey Rowley (P Niven, 7-2); 2, York Imperial (11-2); 3, Attractive (8-1). Some Do Not 7-4 fav. 9 ran. NR: Good Afternoon. 2½l, dist. Mrs G Reveley. Tote: £4.40; £1.40, £1.50, £2.00. DF: £7.60. CSF: £21.25.

1.45 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Breezy Sailor (B Dalton, 20-1); 2, Lafkadio (3-1 fav); 3, They All Forgot Me (6-1). 13 ran. NR: Adelina Lynn, Aribie. 6l, 8l. R Thompson. Tote: £29.00; £7.70, £1.50, £2.40. DF: £62.90. CSF: £86.68. Tricast: £304.26.

2.15 (2m 6f hdle) 1, West Ender (B Dalton, 6-1); 2, Threeoutofour (4-1); 3, Taberna Lord (9-2). Hill Street 7-4 fav. 11 ran. NR: Far Senior, Smiley. Dist, 3l. J Jefferson. Tote: £7.00; £1.70, £1.60, £2.30. DF: £11.90. CSF: £31.83. Tricast: £112.71.

2.45 (2m 1f ch) 1, Sawdust Jack (R Marley, 2-1); 2, Deadline (15-8); 3, Vulrory's Clown (6-4 fav). 3 ran. 8l, dist. M W Easterby. Tote: £3.10. DF: £2.50. CSF: £5.19.

3.15 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Kealby (W Dwan, 12-1); 2, Europa Point (5-4 fav); 3, Happyoasis (9-1). 12 ran. NR: Mighty Michael, Chatty Corner. 20l, 10l. Jimmy Fitzgerald. Tote: £21.70; £4.60, £2.20, £1.60. DF: £49.10. CSF: £31.90.

Placepot: £658.70.

Sedgefield

Going: soft (first two races good)

12.45 (2m hdle) 1, Leven Baby (R Hodge, 7-2 fav); 2, Karindabil (4-1); 3, Pic Negre (16-1). 15 ran. NR: Daimora, Blue Bell Ribbons. 15l, 2½l. Mrs G Reveley. Tote: £4.30; £1.70, £1.70, £3.50. DF: [illegible]. CSF: £17.84.

1.15 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Valiant Dash (C Quinn, 10-1); 2, Integrity Boy (8-1); 3, Rustino (9-2). Galloway Raider 9-4 fav. 11 ran. NR: Mister Moody, Focus On Foster, [illegible], Little Saffrona, [illegible]. Tote: £44.00; £7.40, £1.50, £1.80. DF: £38.70. CSF: £88.56. Tricast: £361.99.

1.45 (2m ch) 1, Unex-Plained (J Callaghan, 5-6 fav); 2, Peacework (8-1); 3, Jody's Boy (8-1). 4 ran. NR: Valentinos Joy. 25l, 7l. G Moore. Tote: £2.00. DF: £7.30. CSF: £5.80.

2.15 (2m 4f ch) 1, Decent Man (P A Farrell, 4-5 fav); 2, Bow Handy Man (10-1); 3, Majestic Player (33-1). 10 ran. NR: Pigeon Island. 30l, 12l. P Beaumont. Tote: £1.90; £1.30, £4.70, £12.90. DF: £21.80. CSF: £10.60.

2.45 (3m 2f 160yd ch) 1, Newton Warrior (R Garritty, 5-4 fav); 2, High Edge Grey (11-2); 3, Bonnie Artist (11-2). 6 ran. 25l, ½l. M H Easterby. Tote: £2.00; £1.80, £1.60. DF: £4.00. CSF: £7.68.

3.15 (2m ch) 1, Windward Ariom (F Murtagh, 13-2); 2, Valiant Boy (5-1); 3, Logamimo (7-1). Houghton 7-2 fav. NR: Whitwood, Camden Knight, Outstanding Bill. 8 ran. 15l, 25l. D Topley. Tote: £6.60; £2.00, £1.50, £3.30. DF: £13.30. CSF: £37.16. Tricast: £215.91.

Placepot: [illegible].

Newton Abbot

Going: soft

12.15 (2m 5f ch) 1, [illegible] Lad (Mr S Bush, 16-1); 2, Sonny Hill Lad (5-2); 3, Tiber River (11-10 fav). 9 ran. Hd, dist. A Jones. Tote: £12.60; £3.10, £1.60, £1.30. DF: £30.20. CSF: £32.81.

12.45 (2m 5f ch) 1, William Anthony (Mr A Walter, 4-5 fav); 2, Hilarion (4-1); 3, Cape Marmon (33-1). 7 ran. NR: Danish Prosper. Dist, 3l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.80; £1.50, £2.20. DF: £4.00. CSF: £4.86.

1.15 (2m 150yd hdle) 1, Benjamin Lancaster (A Webb, 14-1); 2, Miss Chalk (3-1 fav); 3, Crisp Note (33-1); 4, Trojan Song (6-1). 18 ran. NR: Gold 'n Soft, Phoebe Meryll. 3l, 8l. T Hallett. Tote: £34.20; £2.40, £1.90, £4.20, £2.00. DF: £94.00. CSF: £65.91. Tricast: £1,375.45.

1.45 (2m 150yd hdle) 1, [illegible] (R Greene, 7-1); 2, Star Season (5-2); 3, [illegible] (2-1 fav). 11 ran. NR: [illegible], Trainee. 1½l, ¾l. D Barons. Tote: £8.40; £2.10, £1.50, £1.30. DF: £11.90. CSF: £25.82. Tricast: £45.95.

2.15 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Cache Fleur (Mr F Monnier, 4-1); 2, Its Nearly Time (7-2 fav); 3, East River (10-1). 13 ran. NR: Golden [illegible], Faux Pavilion, Whistle Blower. 2½l, 15l. M Pipe. Tote: £4.40; £2.10, £2.40, £3.00. DF: £12.80. CSF: £19.33. Tricast: £122.51.

2.45 (3m 2f 100yd ch) 1, Last House (S Hodgson, 2-1); 2, Hurnworth (4-7 fav). Only two finished. 3 ran. NR: Von Csadek, Seagram, Birling Jack, Longriver Lady, Paddy Buck. 12l. Mrs M Easton. Tote: £2.90. DF: £1.80. CSF: £3.07.

3.15 (2m 150yd hdle) 1, It's After Time (R Greene, 4-1); 2, Coole Dodger (12-1); 3, Poetic Gem (7-1). Patrol Leader 9-4 fav. 12 ran. NR: Capital Punishment, Man From Mars, Janet Scibs, Woodram Lass. 3l, 1¾l. Mrs R Brackenbury. Tote: £5.60; £1.90, £3.60, £2.80. DF: £42.20. CSF: £50.48.

Placepot: £50.50.

Wolverhampton

Going: good to firm

1.0 (2m hdle) 1, Lyph (R Bellamy, 15-2); 2, Clos Du Bois (8-1); 3, Temporale (6-1). Emperors Warrior 2-1 fav. 9 ran. NR: Palm Swift. 2½l, 4l. P Hedger. Tote: £8.20; £2.40, £1.80, £2.30. DF: £28.40. CSF: £55.23. Tricast: £308.90.

1.30 (2m ch) 1, Red Rondo (T Morgan, 4-5 fav); 2, Indian Minor (14-1); 3, Hard Stuff (3-1). 6 ran. 12l, 10l. J Edwards. Tote: £1.80; £1.50, £3.40. DF: £8.00. CSF: £9.88.

2.0 (2m 4f ch) 1, New Halen (E Tierney, 11-8 fav); 2, Bartinas Star (25-1); 3, Wigtown Bay (9-4). 5 ran. 8l, 3l. A James. Tote: £2.20; £1.60, £3.40. DF: £10.90. CSF: £20.31.

2.30 (3m 1f ch) 1, Rynode (W McFarland, 2-1); 2, Couture Color (4-1); 3, Western Legend (4-5 fav). 3 ran. NR: Elite Boy. 20l, dist. R Lee. Tote: £2.50. DF: £2.80. CSF: £7.20.

3.0 (2m 4f hdle) 1, High Chateau (W McFarland, 33-1); 2, Concert Paper (12-1); 3, Dolly Wardance (6-1). Laxden 9-4 fav. 14 ran. NR: Viascorit, Astrabee, Royal Hunt. 10l, 5l. J Spearing. Tote: £24.10; £4.10, £3.70, £1.60. DF: £211.10. CSF: £339.85. Tricast: £2,432.60.

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, Celtic Bob (V Slattery, 4-1); 2, Chester Terrace (11-4 fav); 3, Carbonate (9-1). 13 ran. NR: Northern Barry. Nk, 2½l. D O'Neill. Tote: £5.90; £2.00, £2.20, £3.10. DF: £30.00. CSF: £16.15. Tricast: £84.82.

Placepot: £1,349.40.

Progressive Fidway set to strengthen champion claim

By MANDARIN

FIDWAY can enhance his Champion Hurdle claims by taking the Top Rank Christmas Hurdle at Kempton Park today.

This season, the Tim Thomson Jones-trained gelding showed he is a worthy contender for championship honours, especially now that the title holder, Kribensis, will not be able to defend his crown through injury, when successful in the Gerry Feilden Hurdle at Newbury.

On that occasion the handsome five-year-old was far from fully fit. Nevertheless, he showed his superior class when beating the race-fit Atlaal, who received 6lb, by 1½ lengths.

Using Atlaal as a link with Deep Sensation, my selection has the beating of that rival. A more likely danger, however, may come from Floyd, who has been very unlucky not to have taken this race in the past.

Despite his advancing years, this tough little chesnut showed he had retained his enthusiasm when capturing the 3¼ mile Youngmans Long Walk Hurdle at Ascot by three lengths from Ryde Again.

Fitzgerald: high hopes of double at Kempton

Mutare, who will also be attempting to stake his claim for championship honours, has been set a tough task for his English hurdling debut.

Now with Nicky Henderson, the five-year-old has won his last three hurdle races in Ireland. On his most recent outing, at *Punchestown*, *he* showed useful *form* when beating Trapper John, the winner of last season's Waterford Crystal Staying Hurdle at the Cheltenham festival, by two lengths.

Uncle Ernie, the impressive winner of his two novice chases, can establish himself as the leading juvenile two miler in the country by winning the Universal Studios Florida Novices' Chase.

Jimmy Fitzgerald, the five-year-old's trainer, has already indicated that the gelding is a worthy contender for Arkle Trophy at Cheltenham next March.

The Malton trainer can also be on the mark with Gris Et Violet in the Hard Rock Novices' Hurdle. The gelding, who is seeking a treble, was far from disgraced on his hurdling debut when runner-up to Dawson City at Wetherby last month.

Dawson City has since shown himself to be one of the best juvenile hurdlers in the north when finishing third to Hopscotch at Chepstow last Saturday.

Katabatic can reward Andrew Turnell's immense patience by winning the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Handicap Chase.

Despite missing numerous opportunities in leading contests because of the firm ground, Turnell has astutely placed him to the advantage. Last time out, at Haydock, he took full advantage of Waterloo Boy's concession of 24lb when beating him by 1½ lengths.

A good run from Katabatic will be a significant pointer to the chance of One More Knight, who is napped to win the Odeon Cinemas Handicap Chase. Last season, One More Knight beat Katabatic by three-quarters of a length on this track.

However, on the book he should not beat Fu's Lady today, but I feel the Pipe-trained mare has lost her way.

But my selection should now be ready to open his account after his promising run at Uttoxeter where he was a respectable third to Auntie Dot.

At Wetherby, Young Snugfit can again show his superiority over Waterloo Boy in the Castleford Chase. Last time out, at Sandown, Young *Snugfit beat Waterloo (gave* 5lb) by 12 lengths. Today, they meet on level terms.

Young Benz can complete a double over fences by taking the Appleton Roebuck Novices' Chase for Peter Easterby.

Mystery of Hannon's missing colt

RICHARD Hannon is offering a substantial reward in an effort to retrieve a valuable racehorse that has been missing since Christmas Eve.

The $175,000 yearling, named Reverse The Charge, disappeared after unseating his lad and bolting on Hannon's gallops in East Everleigh, Wiltshire.

Police mounted an aerial search of the area that day and Hannon hired another helicopter to continue a five-mile sweep on Christmas Day with no result. No sightings of the colt have been reported by local farmers either.

Hannon said: "This is a very nice yearling indeed. When he bolted, the horse still had his sheet with the initials R H on, plus the saddle and reins.

"In all my 25 years in the game, nothing like this has ever happened. Horses that disappear usually return after two or three hours when they get hungry. The whole thing is a mystery."

● Hannon's Gran Alba, who finished sixth to Nashwan in the 1989 Derby at Epsom, made his debut over timber in the Haven Novices' Hurdle at Kempton yesterday, and again finished sixth, beaten just over 30 lengths behind the Reg Akehust-trained winner Gaasid.

Blinkered first time

LINGFIELD PARK: 1.25 Jamaica George; 3.25 Castcareaway, Midas Blue, Solid, Brera.

WOLVERHAMPTON

Selections

By Mandarin

1.0 Weareagrandmother. 1.30 Highfire. 2.0 Numerate. 2.30 Bell Dip. 3.0 Capability Brown. 3.30 Bolshoi Boy.

Going: good, good to firm in places (chases); good to firm, good to soft in places (hurdles)

1.0 WESTON THREE-YEAR-OLD NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1: £1,800: 2m) (14 runners)

1 10 FRANCISCAN 14 (D,S) B Preece 11-5 A Juckes (5)
2 314 LEGAL STREAK 5 (D,S) Mrs S Wilson 11-5 S Davies (3)
3 143 PORTO HELI 12 (D,F) M Pipe 11-5 —
4 22 ACCESS SUN 20 J King 10-12 —
5 BIFOCAL 65F P Bevan 10-12 —
6 0 JOKERS PATCH 47 R Holder 10-12 —
7 6 LAWNSWOOD BOY 21 R Hollinshead 10-12 Gary Lyons (3)
8 0 MOUNT KINABALU 30 S Christian 10-12 A Mulholland
9 0 ON SO BOLD 47 J Bradley 10-12 —
10 4 PRESET 34 J Spearing 10-12 M Bowlby
11 SPACE MARINER T Bailey 10-12 J Railton
12 00RP VESTIGE 34 J O'Shea 10-12 —
13 3222 REEF NATIVE 6 M Barraclough 10-7 —
14 23 WEAREAGRANDMOTHER 21 B McMahon 10-7 T Wall

BETTING: 2-1 Porto Heli, 5-1 Access Sun, 7-1 Preset, 8-1 Franciscan, Legal Streak, 12-1 Jokers Patch, 14-1 others.

1.30 STANTON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,652: 2m) (7)

1 SU-5 BARTINAS STAR 53 (B,F,G,S) P Bevan 10-12-0 —
2 P3-2 HIGHFIRE 5 (F) K Bailey 8-11-12 I Lawrence
3 -224 FARE LOVE 22 (D,F,G) Mrs S Johnson 11-10-13 A Juckes
4 3202 HOPE END 18 (D,F,G,S) R Dickin 12-10-6 M Jones
5 -483 ROY PRINCE 37 (D,F) W Clay 7-10-5 R Bevan
6 -365 WOODLAND RETREAT 15 J Pickering 10-10-3 D Dennis (5)
7 6566 YAMANOUCHI 8 D Moffatt 6-10-0 D J Moffatt (5)

BETTING: 6-4 Highfire, 4-1 Hope End, 7-1 Bartinas Star, 15-2 Roy Prince, 8-1 Fare Love, 10-1 others.

2.0 STAFFORD HANDICAP CHASE (£3,155: 3m 1f) (9)

1 1F-0 GRAND VALUE 38 (F,G) D McCain 7-11-12 Mr D McCain (7)
2 3032 JUST FOR THE CRACK 31 (C,F,G,S) K Bailey 12-11-10 I Lawrence
3 33F2 SOONER STILL 12 (B,D,F,S) J Edwards 6-11-5 —
4 1334 RAISABILLION 28 (F,G,S) M O'Neill 8-11-0 —
5 2UU3 DANDY MINSTREL 9 (F,G,S) E Wheeler 6-10-10 M Bowlby
6 -164 PERNOIC 5 (F,G) R Lee 10-10-5 W McFarland
7 5P2- BARTON RISE 401 (S) J Edwards 10-10-2 —
8 2446 WHAT A WALLY 23 (F) M Oliver 8-10-0 J Railton
9 -222 NUMERATE 46 (F,G,S) P Davis 11-10-0 —

BETTING: 3-1 Sooner Still, 4-1 Just For The Crack, Grand Value, 6-1 Raisabillion, 8-1 others.

2.30 ASTBURY TROPHY NOVICES CHASE (£3,863: 2m 4f) (11)

1 1-11 GOLDEN CELTIC 38 (D,G,S) Miss H Knight 6-11-2 G Upton (3)
2 3 BELL DIP 23 R Lee 9-10-12 W McFarland
3 P0P0 BE MY PROSPECT 28 J Mackie 6-10-12 —
4 00-F CHARLOTTE'S OLIVER 33 J Mackie 5-10-12 —
5 P4P- CITY COMMENT 224 (G) J Edwards 6-10-12 —
6 160- O'OR'S GEM 276 (F) P Bevan 7-10-12 T Wall
7 0444 GOLDFINGER 8 J Pilkington 7-10-12 —
8 00-F MINERAL DUST 24 (G,S) Mrs G Jones 7-10-12 M Lynch
9 0 MR PANTOMIME 30 N Twiston-Davies 5-10-12 M Jones (3)
10 MR SETASIDE J Mackie 5-10-12 S J O Neill
11 -94U SNOOKER TABLE 6 (F,G) K White 7-10-12 —

BETTING: 8-11 Golden Celtic, 7-2 Bell Dip, 5-1 Goldfinger, 8-1 City Comment, 14-1 Snooker Table, 20-1 others.

3.0 WESTON THREE-YEAR-OLD NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £1,800: 2m) (17)

1 14F CAPABILITY BROWN 5 (D,S) J Bradley 11-5 —
2 3412 CAPTAIN CHROME 13 (D,G) K Bridgwater 11-5 D Bridgwater (7)
3 85 ANDRELOT 35 Mrs J Pitman 10-12 M Pitman
4 BOLD STREET BLUES 67F C Smith 10-12 Mr M Ranger (7)
5 05 DODGER DICKINS 34 R Hollinshead 10-12 Gary Lyons (3)
6 0 ERCALL MILLER 29 K White 10-12 —
7 HOMING RUN 44F B Preece 10-12 A Juckes (5)
8 P MEXICAN VISION 26 I Campbell 10-12 R Campbell
9 2 RINTINTIN 34 J McConnochie 10-12 —
10 ROY HOBBS 77F K Burke 10-12 J Railton
11 4PU SPRING TO GLORY 13 R Hodges 10-12 I Lawrence
12 TARTAR'S BOW 48F R Holder 10-12 —
13 THE SWAMP FOX 145F J Bradley 10-12 —
14 0P TRISTRAM BEAU M Eckley 10-12 M Brisbourne
15 5 TULFARRIS 14 D Moffatt 10-12 D J Moffatt (7)
16 0- VIKING FLAGSHIP 39F M Pipe 10-12 —
17 0 SKY FIGHTER 14 J Wilson 10-7 R Beggan

BETTING: 5-2 Viking Flagship, 7-2 Andrelot, 4-1 Captain Chrome, 6-1 Capability Brown, 8-1 Dodger Dickins, 10-1 others.

3.30 ALBRIGHTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,194: 2m 6f 110yd) (9)

1 3/5- JIMBALOU 365 (G,S) R Brazington 7-11-13 R Beggan
2 2111 SQUADRON 56 (V,D,F,G,S) M Pipe 7-11-1 —
3 0326 SQUIRE JIM 20 (F) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-10 M Jones (3)
4 -005 DROWSY 12 (B,S) O Sherwood 8-10-9 A S Smith (7)
5 5-30 FLY FOR US 35 (B) M O'Neill 4-10-6 —
6 -061 BOLSHOI BOY 22 (F) Mrs S Oliver 6-10-0 Jacqui Oliver
7 2540 TAGIO 5 (D,F,G,S) M Tate 10-10-0 D Bridgwater (7)
8 150- SULCIS 9F (C,G) R Hollinshead 5-10-0 Gary Lyons (3)
9 0/P SOLDIERS DUTY 12 (G) J Mackie 6-10-0 S J O'Neill

BETTING: 1-3 Squadron, 4-1 Drowsy, 6-1 Bolshoi Boy, 10-1 Squire Jim, 12-1 others.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: M Pipe, 21 winners from 71 runners, 29.6%; Mrs J Pitman, 18 from 78, 23.1%; J Edwards, 17 from 78, 21.8%; Miss S Wilson, 8 from 41, 19.5%; M Eckley, 3 from 19, 15.8%; R Lee, 6 from 43, 14.0%.

JOCKEYS: I Lawrence, 6 winners from 19 rides, 31.6%; M *Lynch, 4 from 17, 23.5%; J Railton, 5 from 24, 20.8%; M Pitman,* 7 from 37, 18.9%; M Bowlby, 4 from 23, 17.4%; Gary Lyons, 3 from 30, 10.0%.

(Not including yesterday's results)

KEMPTON PARK

Selections

By Mandarin

12.45 Gris Et Violet.
1.15 Uncle Ernie.
1.45 Katabatic.
2.20 Fidway.
2.50 ONE MORE KNIGHT (nap).
3.20 Moze Tidy.

By Michael Seely

1.15 Uncle Ernie. 1.45 Katabatic. 2.50 FIT FOR FIRING (nap).

Going: good to soft SIS

12.45 HARD ROCK NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £4,500: 2m 4f) (12 runners) C 4

101 6312P COME HOME KINGSLEY 36 (F) (T Maycock) M McCourt 11-0 — 90
102 211 GRIS ET VIOLET 12 (F,G) (C Longstaff) Jimmy Fitzgerald 11-0 M Dwyer 97
103 1 HAITHAM 23 (G) (N Barnes) R Akehurst 11-0 L Harvey ● 99
104 1212 KALEIDOS 20 (C,D,BF,F,S) (J Henderson (Gateshead)) N Tinkler 11-0 G McCourt 92
105 4 CLWYD LODGE 26 (P Bartley) D Thom 10-9 A Carroll 98
106 622 HARLEQUIN LAD 25 (Unicorn Bloodstock Ltd) K Cunningham-Brown 10-9 R Guest 94
107 21 MISS ADVENTURE 21 (D,G) (Rosico Ltd) M Tompkins 10-9 S Smith Eccles 96
108 58U51 MISS KERRY 13 (G) (G Guest) P Evans 10-9 H Davies 92
109 32 RHODES 12 (The Krads Partnership) J Akehurst 10-9 G Bradley 91
110 5 THE PRODIGAL 31 (Mrs L Starling) P Felden 10-9 T Grantham —
111 555 WOODSIDE HEATH 12 (M Power) J Moore 10-9 A Charlton 89
112 R HOSTESS QUICKLY 23 (V) (Mrs J Ward) P Hedger 10-4 M Richards —

BETTING: 11-4 Gris Et Violet, 7-2 Miss Adventure, 4-1 Haitham, 7-1 Kaleidos, 10-1 Rhodes, 12-1 Miss Kerry, Come Home Kingsley, Harlequin Lad, 14-1 others.

1989: SAYYURE 11-0 G McCourt (5-2 fav) N Tinkler 18 ran

FORM FOCUS GRIS ET VIOLET made all to beat Eastern Whisper 3½l at Edinburgh (2m, good); previously beat San Pier Niceto 1l at Wetherby (2m, good to firm) with CLWYD LODGE (5lb better off) 9½l 4th. HAITHAM beat Crystal Beam ¾l at Fontwell (2m 2f, good) with RHODES (5lb better off) 15l 3rd. KALEIDOS jumped poorly when beaten 25l by Great Mill at Doncaster (2m 4f, good to firm); previously better effort to beat *HARLEQUIN LAD* (5lb better off) 2½l at Haydock (2m 4f, soft). MISS ADVENTURE clear from 2 out when defeating Surcoat 2l at Uttoxeter (2m 4f, good) with MISS KERRY (1lb worse off) 25½l 5th. RHODES 8l 2nd to Reve De Valse at Nottingham (2m, good). Selection: MISS ADVENTURE

1.15 UNIVERSAL STUDIOS FLORIDA NOVICES CHASE (£8,415: 2m) (7 runners) C 4

201 24-2U01 AFRICAN SAFARI 41 (D,F) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 6-11-7 R Strange 72
202 /61/211 DUKE DE VENDOME 21 (D,F,G,S) (S Thomson Jones) Mrs D Haine 7-11-0 S Smith Eccles 78
203 126BU4 GABISH 16 (F) (C Steward) J Ffitch-Heyes 5-11-0 R Goldstein 50
204 P43-313 GENERAL JAMES 25 (CD,F) (Mrs T Brown) J Gifford 7-11-0 R Rowe 73
205 5300-02 POPESWOOD 24 (S) (N Hitchins) W Wightman 7-11-0 M Richards 79
206 3322-11 UNCLE ERNIE 12 (D,G) (A Budge (Equine) Ltd) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-0 M Dwyer ● 99
207 33321-4 XHAI 8 (B,F) (Durham Racing) R Simpson 5-11-0 W Morris 53

BETTING: 4-9 Uncle Ernie, 5-1 Duke De Vendome, 10-1 Popeswood, 12-1 General James, 20-1 African Safari, Xhai, 33-1 Gabish.

1989: YOUNG SNUGFIT 5-11-7 J Osborne (11-4) O Sherwood 5 ran

FORM FOCUS AFRICAN SAFARI beat Deemees Spook 8l in weak grade II contest at Ascot (2m, good to firm). DUKE DE VENDOME all out to beat Knockemnis 1½l at Uttoxeter (2m, good). GENERAL JAMES weakened 2 out when 18l 3rd to Acre Hill at Sandown (2m 18yd, good to firm); previously beat Knockemnis 3l at Kempton (2m, good to firm). POPESWOOD easily held by 2l winner Morley Street at Worcester (2m 4f, good). UNCLE ERNIE ran on strongly to beat Tildarg 5l at Nottingham (2m, good); previously impressive 5l winner from Macarthur at Catterick (2m, good). Selection: UNCLE ERNIE (nap)

1.45 TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES HANDICAP CHASE (£10,755: 2m 4f) (7 runners) C 4

301 1343/6-5 BEAU RANGER 15 (CD,F,G,S) (A White) M Pipe 12-12-0 — 92
302 1273-41 KATABATIC 36 (F,G,S) (Pall-mall Partners) A Turnell 7-11-5 G McCourt 98
303 12-4115 HOGMANAY 12 (D,F,G) (Mrs R Casey) R Casey 8-11-5 H Davies 95
304 345-3P3 CUDDY DALE 30 (CD,F,G,S) (G Hubbard) F Murphy 7-11-0 D Murphy 96
305 351222 THAR-AN-BHARR 12 (D,F,G,S) (J Upson) J Upson 8-10-12 R Supple 95
306 42P/40F- HYPNOSIS 329 (C,F,G,S) (Major G Snell) D Elsworth 11-10-8 G Bradley —
307 4562-45 GOLD OPTIONS 26 (B,F,G,S) (J McCaghy) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-10-8 M Dwyer ● 99

BETTING: 11-4 Katabatic, 7-2 Gold Options, 9-2 Cuddy Dale, 11-2 Thar-An-Bharr, 6-1 Beau Ranger, 8-1 Hogmanay, 25-1 Hypnosis.

1989: PUKKA MAJOR 8-10-11 R Dunwoody (7-2) T Thomson Jones 5 ran

FORM FOCUS BEAU RANGER led until blundering 3 out when 22l 5th to Celtic Shot at Haydock (3m, good to soft). KATABATIC led flat to beat Waterloo Boy 1½l in Haydock handicap (2m, soft); 6l 3rd to Nohalmdun in handicap at Liverpool (2m, firm) final start last term. HOGMANAY all out to beat Certain Style neck on penultimate start in Ascot handicap (2m, good to firm). CUDDY DALE improved when 3½l 3rd to Pegwell Bay in grade II race at Huntingdon (2m 4f, good); 8½l 6th to Joint Sovereignty in listed handicap at Cheltenham (2m 4f, good) with BEAU RANGER (10lb better off) 1½l 7th final start last term. THAR-AN-BHARR running-on 2l 2nd to Blazing Walker in Ascot handicap (2m, good to firm) with HOGMANAY (3lb better off) 3½l 3rd. GOLD OPTIONS 14l 5th to Tactico in Wetherby handicap (2m 4f 100yd, good to firm). *Selection: BEAU RANGER*

2.20 TOP RANK CHRISTMAS HURDLE (Grade I: £32,030: 2m) (8 runners) C 4

401 300-114 ALDINO 36 (V,CD,F,G,S) (A Boyd-Rochfort) O Sherwood 7-11-7 M Richards 93
402 23105-1 DEEP SENSATION 40 (D,G,S) (R Eliot) J Gifford 5-11-7 R Rowe 96
403 1/U611-1 FIDWAY 33 (D,F,G,S) (A Coley) T Thomson Jones 5-11-7 S Smith Eccles 92
404 44340-1 FLOYD 12 (B,CD,F,G,S) (M Walsh) D Elsworth 10-11-7 G Bradley ● 99
405 46/F3-82 MOLE BOARD 15 (D,F,S) (W Sturt) J Old 8-11-7 C Llewellyn 97
406 025-111 MUTARE 46 (D,S) (M Buckley) N Henderson 5-11-7 H Davies 92
407 241164- RIVERHEAD 284F (D,S) (White Horse Racing Ltd) D Elsworth 6-11-7 P Holley 77
408 228113- SYBILLIN 193 (D,F,G) (Marquesa de Moratalla) Jimmy Fitzgerald 4-11-7 M Dwyer 93

BETTING: 7-2 Fidway, 4-1 Deep Sensation, 5-1 Mutare, 6-1 Sybillin, 7-1 Aldino, 8-1 Floyd, Mole Board, 20-1 Riverhead.

1989: KRIBENSIS 5-11-3 R Dunwoody (4-6 fav) M Stoute 8 ran

FORM FOCUS ALDINO disappointing 11½l 4th to Lumberjack at Leicester (2m, soft) with MOLE BOARD (11lb worse off) 8l 5th; previously beat Kharif 1½l in fast time at Newcastle (2m, good). DEEP SENSATION made most to beat Atlaal ¾l at Warwick (2m, good). FIDWAY ridden out to beat Atlaal 1½l in grade II Gerry Feilden Hurdle at Newbury (2m 100yd, good); previously beat Rakes Lane 3l in novices' hurdle at Liverpool (2m, good to firm) with RIVERHEAD (same terms) 4l 4th. FLOYD beat Ryde Again 3l at Ascot (3m 2f, good to firm). MOLE BOARD weakened flat when 3½l 2nd to Run For Free at Haydock (2m 4f, good to soft). MUTARE stayed on strongly to beat Trapper John 2l at Punchestown (2m 4f, yielding). RIVERHEAD comfortably beat Pollock 6l in novices' hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to soft) in February. SYBILLIN beat Windbound Lass ¾l in valuable handicap at Haydock (2m, firm). Selection: FIDWAY

2.50 ODEON CINEMAS HANDICAP CHASE (£5,959: 3m) (10 runners) C 4

501 2/FPP2-3 FOYLE FISHERMAN 36 (D,G,S) (J Hutchinson) J Gifford 11-11-12 R Rowe 90
502 FU121-3 ONE MORE KNIGHT 21 (C,F,G,S) (R West) Mrs I McKie 7-11-8 C Llewellyn 91
503 F05-153 FU'S LADY 29 (BF,F,S) (S Dunster) M Pipe 8-11-7 G McCourt 95
504 1F61-11 FINGEST 15 (D,G,S) (R Allen) P Evans 7-11-3 H Davies 98
505 21-1121 ASSAGLAWI 43 (CD,F,G) (Richard Green (Fine Paintings)) Miss H Knight 8-11-0 M Dwyer 95
506 111/60P- THE BAKEWELL BOY 287 (G,S) (N Lake) M Muggeridge 8-10-10 W Irvine 82
507 U4116P- THE NIGELSTAN 346 (CD,G,S) (S Powell) P Hedger 9-10-5 M Richards 89
508 3/616-31 FIT FOR FIRING 15 (G,S) (F Chapman) D Elsworth 8-10-0 P Holley (3) 98
509 461411 FARMLEA BOY 9 (D,F,G,S) (R Lavelle) G Balding 10-10-0 R Guest ● 99
510 231131- AIR BROKER 255 (D,F,G,S) (Food Brokers Ltd) R Akehurst 9-10-0 L Harvey 89

Long handicap: Air Broker 9-6.

BETTING: 7-2 Fit For Firing, 9-2 One More Knight, 5-1 Assaglawi, 6-1 Farmlea Boy, Fu's Lady, 7-1 Fingest, 12-1 Foyle Fisherman, 20-1 Air Broker, The Nigelstan, 33-1 The Bakewell Boy.

1989: ZUKO 8-10-7 M Perrett (5-5 fav) S Mellor 6 ran

FORM FOCUS FOYLE FISHERMAN weakened 2 out when 8½l 3rd to Katabatic at Haydock (2m, soft). ONE MORE KNIGHT 9½l 3rd to Auntie Dot at Uttoxeter (2m 4f, good). FU'S LADY tailed off 3rd of 4 behind Special at Hereford (2m 3f, good); previously all out to beat Clever Folly ¾l in valuable handicap at Ascot (2m, firm). FINGEST beat Classey Boy (rec 15lb) 5l at Worcester (3m, soft). ASSAGLAWI driven out to beat Blood Blues 3½l here (3m, good to firm); previously beat My Sidway 5l at Worcester (2m 4f, good) with FARMLEA BOY (11lb better off) 4l 4th. THE NIGELSTAN beat Toureen Prince a head in novices' chase here (3m, good) in February. FIT FOR FIRING easily beat The Last Tune 5l at Worcester (2m 4f, soft). FARMLEA BOY beat Beech Park (rec 23lb) 3l at Folkestone (2m 4f, good to firm). AIR BROKER driven out to beat Highway Express 2l at Wincanton (3m 1f, firm). Selection: ASSAGLAWI

3.20 QUICKSILVER HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,410: 2m 4f) (5 runners)

601 5-31182 STRATFORD PONDS 12 (C,D,F,G) (R Waters) O Sherwood 5-11-10 M Richards ● 99
602 03302-0 WINDBOUND LASS 87F (F,G,S) (R Savery) R Holder 7-11-7 — 98
603 422111 CATCH THE CROSS 26 (V,D,F,S) (B Price) M Pipe 4-10-9 M Foster (7) 93
604 2260-13 MOZE TIDY 27 (D,G) (M Greenway) J Gifford 5-10-2 R Rowe 90
605 12-2301 OUBLIER L'ENNUI 26 (F) (R Reip) D Barons 5-10-0 — 94

Long handicap: Oublier L'Ennui 9-7.

BETTING: 6-4 Catch The Cross, 2-1 Stratford Ponds, 11-2 Moze Tidy, 8-1 Oublier L'Ennui, 10-1 Windbound Lass.

1989: CASH IS KING 5-10-10 D Gallagher (5-1) Mrs J Pitman 13 ran

FORM FOCUS STRATFORD PONDS 3½l 2nd to subsequent winner Wonder Man at Ascot (2m, good to firm); previously beat Deadly Charm a neck at Cheltenham (2m, good to firm). WINDBOUND LASS ¾l 2nd to Sybillin in valuable handicap at Haydock (2m, firm) in May. CATCH THE CROSS beat King's Curate 1l at Sandown (2m 5f 75yd, good to soft); previously pushed out to beat Miramac 12l at Wolverhampton (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft). MOZE TIDY easily beat Willowson 20l in novices' hurdle at Worcester (2m 4f, good); little chance when 18l 3rd to Tyrone Bridge at Sandown (2m 5f 75yd, good to soft) subsequently. OUBLIER L'ENNUI driven out to beat Carbonate 3l at Taunton (2m 3f, good to firm). Selection: STRATFORD PONDS

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
O Sherwood	15	67	22.4	R Rowe	18	96	18.7
R Simpson	3	14	21.4	G McCourt	9	56	16.1
P Hedger	3	17	17.6	S Smith Eccles	7	54	13.0
J Gifford	21	121	17.4	C Llewellyn	3	25	12.0
D Elsworth	18	108	16.7				
M Pipe	4	32	12.5	(Only qualifiers)			

(Not including yesterday's results)

WETHERBY

Selections

By Mandarin

1.00 Marlingford.
1.30 King's Curate.
2.00 Young Benz.
2.35 The Artful Rascal.
3.05 Young Snugfit.
3.35 Merano.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.0 MARLINGFORD.

Going: soft SIS

1.0 BRADFORD NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £1,870: 2m) (19 runners)

1 31 MARLINGFORD 7 (D,S) (J Law) Mrs J Jordan 11-8 B Storey ● 99
2 204221 REVE DE VALSE 12 (D,G) (K Higson) Denys Smith 11-8 G Moore 87
3 10 TYBURN LAD 14 (D,G) (P Potts) H Collingridge 11-3 V Smith 77
4 6 CHARLY PHARLY 26 (B) (F Lee) F Lee 10-10 P Niven —
5 DUTCH BLUES 162F (B Pratt) Mrs S Austin 10-10 D Wilkinson —
6 30 FASTAUFAN 12 (Mrs A Tudor) R Whitaker 10-10 S Turner 86
7 GRANITTON BAY 58F (D Gill) Miss J Barclay 10-10 D Nolan —
8 400 HERBERTO 7 (D Wright) N Tinkler 10-10 R Dunwoody —
9 6 LE JOUEUR 14 (Mrs A Porter) Mrs P Barker 10-10 C Hawkins —
10 LONDINIUM 265F (M Griffiths) O Brennan 10-10 M Brennan —
11 ROBINS SON 76F (Robinson Publications Ltd) Jimmy Fitzgerald 10-10 D Byrne —
12 8 SAIF CROWN 33 (T Cunningham) T Cunningham 10-10 K Jones —
13 P SANDMOOR DENIM 34 (E Lunness) S Bowring 10-10 S Mitchell —
14 0 SHERIFF'S BAND 7 (I Armitage) M H Easterby 10-10 R Fahey 83
15 SINGING DETECTIVE 22F (John Mills Office Equipment) M Brittain 10-10 L Wyer —
16 8 STRAIGHT LACED 12 (J Pickard) J Wainwright 10-10 —
17 600 SUSAN'S PET 7 (W Barker) W Barker 10-10 G Harker 83
18 WHITEWEBB 71F (North East Paper Co) B Murray 10-10 R Marley —
19 STACK ROCK 14F (Castle Racing) E Alston 10-5 M Alston (7) —

BETTING: 5-2 Reve De Valse, 11-4 Marlingford, 7-2 Robins Son, 8-1 Sheriff's Band, 10-1 Charly Pharly, 14-1 Tyburn Lad, Herberto, 16-1 others.

1989: RUSTINO 10-7 Gar Lyons (9-1) A Robson 17 ran

1.30 ST JOHN AMBULANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,840: 3m) (11 runners)

1 131F0-2 YORKSHIRE HOLLY 40 (CD,G,S) (R Wood) Mrs G Reveley 7-12-0 R Hodge (7) 90
2 211-1UU INVASION 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Lady Anne Bentinck) J Glover 6-11-4 J J Quinn 95
3 0311-42 KING'S CURATE 28 (S) (C Ellis) S Mellor 6-10-7 M Perrett 85
4 880-242 BROCTUNE GREY 20 (CD,F,S) (D Playforth) Mrs G Reveley 5-10-6 P Niven ● 99
5 415/31-3 EUROCON 14 (F,G,S) (W Splek) T Barron 6-10-0 B McGlint (5) 85
6 6-11P16 PREMIER PRINCESS 26 (F,S) (F Roofing Ltd) J O'Neill 5-10-0 L Wyer 92
7 21-3PP5 PACO'S BOY 18 (F,S) (T Suter, Son Ltd) B Richmond 7-10-0 F Murtagh (7) 92
8 PP25U2 MUBAARIS 16 (F,G,S) (The Morley Stud) W A Stephenson 5-10-0 D Byrne 86
9 0/4010-0 INK SPLASH 23 (F,G) (501 Club Racing Group) C Sherwood 9-10-0 Mr K Johnson 77
10 0PPPP-0 PREDOMINATE 35 (F,S) (A Duckworth) R Earnshaw 4-10-0 J Osborne —
11 414-524 FAST FREEZE 28 (F) S Mason (7) 88

Long handicap: Paco's Boy 9-10, Mubaaris 9-9, Ink Splash 9-1, Predominate 8-0, Fast Freeze 7-11.

BETTING: 11-4 King's Curate, 7-2 Broctune Grey, 5-1 Premier Princess, 6-1 Yorkshire Holly, 13-2 Eurocon, 10-1 Invasion, 14-1 Paco's Boy, 16-1 others.

1989: SIP OF ORANGE 7-11-1 M Dwyer (10-1) Jimmy Fitzgerald 9 ran

2.0 APPLETON ROEBUCK NOVICES CHASE (£2,467: 2m 50yd) (6 runners)

1 5116-11 LAST 'O' THE BUNCH 5 (D,F,G,S) (G Middlebrook) G Richards 6-11-12 N Doughty 90
2 141/461 YOUNG BENZ 8 (D,S) (T Bennett) M H Easterby 6-11-6 L Wyer ● 99
3 0/3400F DICK THE SPUDDLER 5 (D Drury) W Bentley 6-11-0 T Reed —
4 0R-0P SOLAR GREEN 8 (M Healey) L Codd 5-11-0 P Leach —
5 3613-00 UP-A-POINT 8 (F) (D Holt) F Lee 8-11-0 C Hawkins —
6 320263 LINGHAM MAGIC 22 (J Swiers) J Swiers 5-10-9 Mr S Swiers 71

BETTING: 11-10 Last 'O' The Bunch, 11-8 Young Benz, 12-1 Up-A-Point, 14-1 Lingham Magic, 20-1 Dick The Spuddler, 33-1 Solar Green.

1989: MISTER POINT 7-11-12 R Marley (Evens fav) M H Easterby 7 ran

2.35 BRAMHAM NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,800: 2m 4f) (13 runners)

1 2114F1 BREAK THE CHAIN 24 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs A Brown) W A Stephenson 5-12-0 J Supple (7) 90
2 6-01 FAR SENIOR 35 (F) (Mrs D Grant) K Morgan 4-11-3 R Dunwoody 89
3 0/003-22 THE ARTFUL RASCAL 23 (BF) (Mrs R Banks) J Gifford 5-11-2 E Murphy ● 99
4 385464/ FULL SPEED AHEAD 684F (Mrs M Smyly) S Sherwood 7-10-8 J Osborne —
5 F0-66 FLYING FREEHOLD 14 (J Upson) J Upson 5-10-7 — 81
6 P13000 LIGHT DANCER 8 (F) (R Owen) L Codd 4-10-3 S Turner 94
7 00/003-2 CENTENARY STAR 68 (C Buckley) Mrs G Reveley 5-10-3 Mr M Buckley (7) 95
8 080 HIDDEN QUIVER 14 (R Norton) K Morgan 4-10-0 — 85
9 6540 NUGOLA 28 (J Swiers) J Swiers 5-10-0 — 93
10 0-03188 GIPSY RAMBLER 6 (B) (Mrs M Underwood) N Chamberlain 5-10-0 G Harker 95
11 385/0P-P CRACK-A-JIM 6 (D Gill) Miss J Barclay 6-10-0 D Nolan —
12 085555 PRINCE BISHOP 16 (N Miller) N Miller 4-10-0 A Heywood (7) 86
13 6/0P580 SCOTTO'S REGRET 16 (Miss D Taylor) F Taylor 6-10-0 F Murtagh (7) 74

Long handicap: Nugola 9-12, Gipsy Rambler 9-10, Crack-A-Jim 9-6, Prince Bishop 8-12, Scotto's Regret 8-8.

BETTING: 9-4 Break The Chain, 4-1 The Artful Rascal, 5-1 Far Senior, 13-2 Flying Freehold, 8-1 Full Speed Ahead, 10-1 Centenary Star, 12-1 Nugola, 16-1 others.

1989: MILITARY HONOUR 4-10-8 Gar Lyons (15-8 fav) M W Easterby 11 ran

3.5 CASTLEFORD CHASE (Grade I: £32,237: 2m 50yd) (5 runners)

1 3F44-22 ANTINOUS 41 (D,F,G,S) (G Shouler) M H Easterby 8-11-10 L Wyer 70
2 0F-0255 CLEVER FOLLY 12 (D,F,S) (N Mason (Farms) Ltd) G Richards 10-11-10 N Doughty 83
3 12-1411 GREENHEART 23 (CD,F,G) (The Morley Stud) W A Stephenson 7-11-10 P Niven 80
4 324-U33 WATERLOO BOY 26 (BF,D,F,G,S) (M Deeley) D Nicholson 7-11-10 R Dunwoody ● 99
5 2322-21 YOUNG SNUGFIT 26 (D,F,G,S) (J Poynton) O Sherwood 6-11-10 J Osborne 97

BETTING: 5-4 Young Snugfit, 11-4 Waterloo Boy, 9-1 Antinous, 12-1 Greenheart, 14-1 Clever Folly.

1989: IDA'S DELIGHT 10-10-7 B Storey (17-2) J Charlton 5 ran

3.35 BICKERTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,785: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1 11/4081- TIMMINION 79F (CD,F,G,S) (R Dawson) A Stringer 8-11-10 J J Quinn 92
2 555-3P0 WITHOUT A DOUBT 26 (B) (T Tate) T Tate 8-11-9 — 97
3 12345-0 CARBISDALE 36 (C,S) (Mrs P Weymes) E Weymes 4-11-8 J Callaghan (3) 95
4 5126-23 ARMAGRET 40 (D,F,G,S) (Miss T Longstaff) B Wilkinson 5-11-1 D Byrne 91
5 38P1- MERANO 259 (S) (C St George) M W Easterby 7-11-0 — 90
6 3-2625F3 CASTLEVENNON 7 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 9-10-12 J O'Gorman (3) 92
7 6214/0P- QUESSARD 9F (D,F,G) (F Lee) F Lee 8-10-8 C Hawkins —
8 7-02615 CHASERS' BAR 54 (CD,F) (J Swiers) J Swiers 5-10-0 — ● 99
9 311145- SPARK OF PEACE 327 (D,G,S) (B Cahill) P Blockley 8-10-0 — 89

Long handicap: Chasers' Bar 9-13, Spark Of Peace 9-11.

BETTING: 5-2 Without A Doubt, 9-2 Carbisdale, 5-1 Timminion, 8-1 Armagret, Merano, 10-1 Castlevennon, 12-1 Quessard, 14-1 others.

1989: YORKSHIRE HOLLY 6-11-6 P Niven (Evens fav) Mrs G Reveley 9 ran

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
O Sherwood	3	4	75.0	L Wyer	28	119	23.5
J Gifford	7	21	33.3	N Doughty	10	61	16.4
Jimmy Fitzgerald	32	138	23.2	D Byrne	3	19	15.8
G Richards	33	150	22.0	T Reed	9	58	15.5
M H Easterby	40	197	20.3	C Hawkins	15	127	11.8
K Morgan	6	31	19.4	J O'Gorman	5	45	11.1

(Not including yesterday's results)

TAUNTON

Selections

By Mandarin

12.45 Seaton Girl. 1.15 Clifton Lad. 1.45 Young Warrior. 2.15 Hairy Mac. 2.45 Asigh. 3.15 King Retain.

Going: good to soft (good patches)

12.45 REINDEER HANDICAP CHASE (£2,380: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

1 -612 FAMOUS LAD 8 (D,S) R Lee 7-11-10 J Short
2 3P/2 SKYLARK WONDER 1 (D,G) C Popham 8-11-8 B Powell
3 -233 SHANNAGARY 27 (S) R Hodges 9-11-7 J Frost
4 6/3 NODALOTTE 13 (CD,F,S) Mrs H Parrott 10-11-4 S McNeill
5 13F1 ZUMMERSET 21 (F,G) (C) A Barrow 8-11-0 S Earle
6 53-0 GLEN RIDGE 15 (S) P Hobbs 8-10-10 C Maude (5)
7 241U SEATON GIRL 21 (D,F,S) R Frost 6-10-8 C Hopwood
8 4454 DEEP RIDGE 13 (CD,F,S) R Hodges 12-10-0 Mr B Clifford (7)

5-2 Famous Lad, 3-1 Zummerset, 7-2 Shannagary, 4-1 Skylark Wonder, 6-1 Seaton Girl, 8-1 Nodalotte, 12-1 others.

1.15 HANGOVER NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (£1,884: 2m 110yd) (14)

1 1R00 AHSANTA SANA 21 (B,D,F) A Barrow 4-11-0 S Earle
2 P/0- BENOIT 308 N Thomson 5-11-0 —
3 2-30 CAERNARVON ROYAL 18 R Hodges 5-11-0 A Tory (3)
4 CLIFTON LAD 984F M Pipe 5-11-0 —
5 EBONY STAR Mrs S Oliver 6-11-0 R Hyett
6 05-P KING OF THE WOOD 31 J Bennett 5-11-0 M Bosley
7 KNIGHT IN ARMOUR Mrs S Williams 7-11-0 —
8 -634 NISCARA 13 R Frost 5-11-0 J Frost
9 NOLEHAM BROOK C Tristine 4-11-0 B Constable
10 3363 SPAR LADY 21 (D,F) J Roberts 7-11-0 P Dever
11 TUTBURY 1682F R Hodges 8-11-0 B Powell
12 0 BELTALONG 26 B Forsey 4-10-9 N Coleman
13 0U4 BUCKLAND HAZE 15 P Cowley 4-10-9 V Slattery (7)
14 SUBOOK 478F J Czerpak 4-10-9 G Rowe (7)

2-1 Clifton Lad, 7-2 Niscara, 5-1 Caernarvon Royal, 6-1 Ahsanta Sana, 8-1 Beltalong, 10-1 Ebony Star, 12-1 others.

1.45 SOMERSET SOUND NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,074: 3m) (14)

1 3-60 YOUNG WARRIOR 8 (S) Miss H Knight 8-11-10 J Duggan
2 2-15 TRAVAIL GIRL 15 (F) G Ham 8-11-4 R Bellamy (3)
3 0622 ROCKY VULGAN 70 Miss L Bower 7-11-2 S Hodgson (7)
4 /P0 BOARD THE TRAIN 15 G Ham 9-11-2 M A Fitzgerald (7)
5 2/0 VIPSANIA 30 (S) M Meade 8-11-2 S Earle
6 -3U1 GREEN SECRET 21 (CD,F) C Popham 8-11-1 B Powell
7 /3-0 THE FLY BOYS 15 (F) B Forsey 8-11-1 N Coleman
8 3U2- PROVERB SON 238 P Hobbs 6-11-0 Mr B Clifford (7)
9 06F0 AUGHWILLIAM 30 (S) D Gandolfo 10-10-11 J Short
10 2U34 GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS 30 (F) B Scriven 12-10-7 Mr R Farrant (7)
11 065F PALACE GARDENS 5 J Bradley 6-10-6 —
12 -65P BISCUIT TRADER 35 Mrs J Retter 8-10-6 —
13 -034 DAYBROOK VERB 13 J Honeyball 8-10-6 S McNeill
14 -66P TINKERS BROOK 33 A Barrow 5-10-6 N Hawke (3)

5-2 Young Warrior, 7-2 Proverb Son, 5-1 Travail Girl, 6-1 Green Secret, 8-1 Gustavus Adolphus, Vipsania, 12-1 others.

2.15 YE OLDE POPPE INNE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,388: 2m 3f) (14)

1 3130 ABU MUSLAB 12 (F) G Edwards 6-11-8 Mr G Edwards
2 -F12 MUDAHIM 15 (C,F,S) C Broad 4-11-3 D Tegg
3 2241 MYFOR 8 (S) M Pipe 4-11-3 —
4 04-1 REPALDO 21 (C,F) R Hodges 4-11-3 J Frost
5 2440 ALGAIHABANE 24 Miss A Whitfield 4-10-10 S McNeill
6 DEEP REEF 157F J Baker 4-10-10 S Burrough (5)
7 2 HAIRY MAC 20 P Hobbs 4-10-10 Mr B Clifford (7)
8 50/ KILHALLON CASTLE 655 S Horn 7-10-10 Mrs C Wonnacott (7)
9 2 KNWI L'EGLISE 33 (BF) D Barons 4-10-10 B Powell
10 4-53 MOTOR CLOAK 7 M Brown 4-10-10 J Brown
11 THE REFRIGERATOR 68F L Cottrell 6-10-10 M Bosley
12 0 MOONTALK 15 R Akehurst 4-10-5 J Leach (3)
13 3/ OWTFORNOWT 528 J Baker 5-10-5 —
14 -004 TUFOLI 20 D C Tucker 6-10-5 P Davies (7)

3-1 Mudahim, 4-1 Myfor, 5-1 Hairy Mac, 6-1 Knwi L'Eglise, 8-1 Algaihabane, 10-1 The Refrigerator, 12-1 others.

2.45 MISTLETOE HANDICAP CHASE (£2,346: 3m 3f) (11)

1 /5-P PADDY BUCK 5 (F,S) J Honeyball 10-12-0 —
2 0-4P JUST SO 14 (S) J Roberts 7-11-9 S Burrough (5)
3 2-45 DOUBLE TRICKS 26 (G) C Popham 7-11-5 B Powell
4 55F2 CAPELI CONE 5 (G,S) Mrs H Parrott 8-11-1 S McNeill
5 /6F ROYAL REPLY 5 (F,G) G Ham 10-10-12 M A Fitzgerald (7)
6 1P-0 ASIGH 38 (S) M Meade 8-10-10 M Bosley
7 0/1- PAT ALASKA 244 (CD,F) Mrs P Dutfield 7-10-7 Mr R Darke (7)
8 P-50 CASTLE OAKS 23 (V,G,S) D Gandolfo 7-10-7 J Short
9 4634 CANTORIAL 16 (F,G,S) C Popham 9-10-1 S Donohoe (7)
10 1343 LAURA'S STAR 21 (F) M Churches 8-10-0 Mr R Farrant (7)
11 44F6 TAGMOUN CHAUFOUR 33 A Barrow 5-10-0 S Earle

7-2 Paddy Buck, 4-1 Double Tricks, 5-1 Capeli Cone, 6-1 Just So, 8-1 Pat Alaska, Royal Reply, 10-1 others.

3.15 CHRISTMAS PUDDING CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,772: 2m 110yd) (11)

1 2116 KING RETAIN 16 (CD,F,S) C Popham 7-12-0 S Donohoe
2 22-0 BLAKE'S PROGRESS 12 (D,F) M Pipe 4-11-9 —
3 0651 FINAL SOUND 28 (B,CD,F) J Baker 5-10-10 S Burrough
4 4P-2 MRS PEOPLEATER 15 (D,G,S) C Weedon 7-10-9 T Tynan
5 P65- FORTLIMON 213 (D,G,S) M Pipe 4-10-4 —
6 PF3F SELF AID 8 (D,F) J Roberts 7-10-3 M Burrows (5)
7 5/ LADY OF BATH 998F (B) P Hobbs 8-10-2 C Maude
8 -040 DUNCAN IDAHO 8 (G) R Callow 7-10-0 —
9 6F30 LONGGHURST 20 (CD,G,S) B Forsey 7-10-0 I Shoemark
10 1/ BELLEKINO 1239 (D,F,G,S) G Ham 9-10-0 M A Fitzgerald (5)
11 5211 GLEBELANDS GIRL 21 (D,G,S) R Bennett 3-10-0 Lee O'Hara (5)

3-1 Fortlimon, 7-2 Blake's Progress, 4-1 Final Sound, 5-1 King Retain, 8-1 Mrs Peopleater, 10-1 others.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: M Pipe, 59 winners from 229 runners, 25.8%; J Bennett, 3 from 13, 23.1%; G Ham, 5 from 28, 17.9%; Mrs J Retter, 4 from 23, 17.4%; C Popham, 15 from 107, 14.0%; D Barons, 7 from 56, 12.5%.

JOCKEYS: R Bellamy, 3 winners from 8 rides, 37.5%; N Coleman, 13 from 85, 15.3%; B Powell, 28 from 224, 12.5%; S Earle, 10 from 90, 11.1%; J Frost, 10 from 105, 9.5%. (Only qualifiers).

Harker's acrobatic act

GEOFF Harker made an astonishing recovery on Bluff Knoll to win the Rowland Meyrick Handicap Chase at Wetherby yesterday. Harker showed acrobatic skills to stay in the saddle after being knocked sideways as his mount and Stay On Tracks came close together at the second last.

Quickly getting Bluff Knoll back on an even keel, Harker jumped the last safely and rode a strong finish to hold his rival by half a length.

LINGFIELD PARK

Selections

By Mandarin

12.25 Lady Philippa. 12.55 Tolo. 1.25 Jamaica George. 1.55 Windsor Park. 2.25 Sergeant Meryll. 2.55 Statajack. 3.25 Brown As A Berry.

Going: standard SIS

Draw: 6f-7f, low numbers best

12.25 THIN RED LINE MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: 2-Y-O: £2,356: 1m) (8 runners)

1 00 FOURHEARTSDOUBLED 8 J Scargill 9-0 Dale Gibson 1
2 HIGHLAND LAKE 39 C Austin 9-0 B Doyle (7) 8
3 6 HOLD FAST 12 H Candy 9-0 C Rutter 3
4 0000 NICE PICTURE 58 R Champion 9-0 T Quinn 5
5 SOLID STEEL Mrs L Piggott 9-0 B Crossley 2
6 WICKED THINGS D Elsworth 9-0 J Williams 6
7 0355 JOLIZAL 8 D Morris 8-9 N Day 7
8 3 LADY PHILIPPA 21 B Hills 8-9 Dean McKeown 4

4-6 Lady Philippa, 7-2 Solid Steel, 5-1 Wicked Things, 8-1 Jolizal, 10-1 Hold Fast, 12-1 others

12.55 LIGHT BRIGADE CLAIMING STAKES (£2,385: 6f) (11)

1 314 PLEASANT EXHIBIT 30 (F) J Bethell 3-8-7 — 5
2 89 MY SCENE 21 C Austin 4-8-2 Paul Eddery 8
3 4420 TOLO 49J (D,F) J White 5-8-9 W Newnes 4
4 5600 ERIK ODIN 21 (Cy Mrs L Piggott 3-8-8 Beverley Brettle (7) 2
5 0/3- GORYTUS STAR 847 (S) D Haydn Jones 4-8-7 J Williams 8
6 0462 ANNELI ROSE 8 (B) P Cole 3-8-6 T Quinn 11
7 6004 COUNT ME OUT 8 (B,CD,F) R Hoad 5-8-6 G Carter 7
8 /50- LINAVOS 586 (D,F) P Howling 7-8-4 Debbie Biggs (7) 10
9 6003 MURMURING 21 (CD) S Dow 4-8-2 Emma O'Gorman (5) 3
10 3650 SUPADUPA 45 J White 3-8-1 Dale Gibson 9
11 6000 MISS BEA 86 (B) A Bailey 3-7-13 S Dawson 1

11-4 Anneli Rose, 7-2 Murmuring, 9-2 Pleasant Exhibit, 6-1 Erik Odin, 7-1 Count Me Out, 10-1 Supadupa, 12-1 others.

1.25 SEBASTOPOL HANDICAP (£3,047: 2m) (8)

1 5641 GO SOUTH 12 (B,CD,F,G,S) J Jenkins 6-9-13 N Day 7
2 1120 LINK MARKET 9 (CD,F) M Ryan 4-9-4 G Carter 6
3 1224 NORTHWOLD STAR 12 (V,F,G) D Thom 4-8-2 T Quinn 8
4 0005 BOULEVARD GIRL 22 (D,F,G,S) C Booth 5-9-1 G Hind (3) 2
5 8/3 JAMAICA GEORGE 12 (V,D,F) T Thomson Jones 5-8-13 Paul Eddery 4
6 3235 ROUSILLON TO BE 55 (BF) J Bethell 3-8-5 — 5
7 3510 ALTOBELLI 12 (CD,F) P Mitchell 6-8-0 B Crossley 3
8 0603 MY OPINION 41J E Eldin 4-7-7 B Doyle 1

5-2 Jamaica George, 3-1 Go South, 4-1 Northwold Star, 6-1 Altobelli, 8-1 Link Market, 10-1 Rousillon To Be, 12-1 others.

1.55 CRIMEA HANDICAP (£3,817: 1m 2f) (12)

1 3064 BREEZED WELL 12 (F,G) C Allen 4-10-0 Mick Denaro (7) 10
2 3113 RAPPORTEUR 21 (CD,F) C C Elsey 4-9-5 W Newnes 6
3 5340 PAY THE BANK 122 (F) B Hills 3-9-1 Dean McKeown 4
4 2216 DR MACCARTER 42 (V,CD) W O'Gorman 3-9-0 Emma O'Gorman (7) 1
5 4112 SHINING JEWEL 12 (CD,F) E Eldin 3-9-0 B Crossley 3
6 4420 PRICELESS FANTASY 47 (F) I Wardle 3-8-8 D Biggs (5) 2
7 2504 WINDSOR PARK 8 (B,C,D,G) R O'Sullivan 4-8-8 T Quinn 5
8 0310 WALKING SAINT 12 (C,G) R Hannon 3-8-3 A McGlone 7
9 5005 CATHOS 12 (C,D,F,G,S) D Wilson 5-8-3 G Carter 11
10 0612 FACT OR FICTION 8 (B,CD,BF,F) Miss B Sanders 4-7-12 Dale Gibson 9
11 0024 COLOUR SCHEME 14 J Jenkins 3-7-11 J Quinn 12
12 1040 KOVALEVSKIA 28 (CD,F,G,S) D Wilson 5-7-8 G Bardwell 8

3-1 Rapporteur, 9-2 Dr Maccarter, 5-1 Fact Or Fiction, 6-1 *Shining Jewel, 8-1 Breezed Well, Pay The Bank, 12-1 others.*

2.25 ALMA HANDICAP (£2,846: 7f) (8)

1 0621 VANROY 12 (V,C,D,F,G,S) J Jenkins 6-10-0 J Williams 8
2 1040 HURRICANE POWER 61 (C,G) J Bethell 3-8-12 — 5
3 0423 YEOMAN BID 8 (V) K Ivory 3-8-4 G Bardwell 7
4 -304 CROSBY 9 (CD,F,G,S) P Kelleway 4-8-0 G Carter 6
5 6060 PUSEY STREET BOY 14 (D,F) R Hannon 3-8-13 A McGlone 1
6 6630 POLLY MULDOWNEY 65 R Stubbs 3-8-3 J H Brown 3
7 3001 SERGEANT MERYLL 8 (CD,G,S) P Howling 6-7-10 (5ex) N Adams 2
8 0060 BLAZING SUNSET 14 (C,F) D Wilson 3-7-7 R Street 4

5-2 Sergeant Meryll, 7-2 Vanroy, 5-1 Crosby, 6-1 Hurricane Power, 7-1 Pusey Street Boy, 10-1 Yeoman Bid, 12-1 others.

2.55 THIN RED LINE MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: 2-Y-O: £2,337: 1m) (8)

1 ASPIRANT M Prescott 9-0 C Nutter 8
2 4000 BIRLING ASHES 42 R Stubbs 9-0 — 1
3 0502 JUST ONE 8 (V) M McCormack 9-0 A Clark 3
4 4 STATAJACK 12 D Elsworth 9-0 J Williams 4
5 0000 TWILIGHT FLAME 8 M Channon 9-0 J Quinn 7
6 FLOWER MELODY H Candy 8-9 C Rutter 5
7 3U RAINBOW CHASER 112 P Cole 8-9 T Quinn 2
8 5 RED SECRET 12 Mrs L Piggott 8-9 B Crossley 6

5-2 Rainbow Chaser, 3-1 Statajack, 4-1 Aspirant, 6-1 Just One, 8-1 Flower Melody, 10-1 Red Secret, 12-1 others.

3.25 INKERMAN NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £2,574: 7f) (14)

1 0040 CASTCAREAWAY 83 (B) C Austin 9-7 Paul Eddery 14
2 4601 FLUIDITY 12 (CD) J Gosden 9-5 G Carter 10
3 0042 TANFIRION BAY 12 (B) P Mitchell 9-3 W Ryan 2
4 0225 OAK PARK 21 R Stubbs 8-12 J H Brown 8
5 3002 MIDAS BLUE 9 (V) A Bailey 8-10 A Mackay 5
6 5065 HOMILE 21 R Hannon 8-10 A McGlone 9
7 6060 VILLAGE PET 58 (F) R Bennett 8-8 N Adams 3
8 040 BROWN AS A BERRY 27 Mrs L Piggott 8-8 B Crossley 12
9 0402 SOLID 14 (V) J Jenkins 8-7 N Day 4
10 6032 MARWELL BIANCA 12 W Wightman 8-6 J Williams 6
11 0000 MISS SURFIELD 14 R Hannon 7-10 G Bardwell 7
12 5505 MAZIN 79 C Benstead 7-7 R Street 13
13 4060 BRERA 79 Mrs L Piggott 7-7 G Milligan (7) 11
14 000 GOOD IMPRESSION 83 R Champion 7-7 D Biggs 1

7-2 Tanfirion Bay, 4-1 Fluidity, 5-1 Solid, 6-1 Marwell *Bianca, 8-1 Midas Blue, 10-1 Brown As A Berry, 12-1 others.*

Course specialists

TRAINERS: M Prescott, 14 winners from 50 runners, 28.0%; B Hills, 21 from 83, 25.3%; J Gosden, 5 from 21, 23.8%; W O'Gorman, 12 from 51, 23.5%; J Scargill, 6 from 34, 17.6%; R O'Sullivan, 7 from 40, 17.5%.

JOCKEYS: C Nutter, 4 winners from 15 rides, 26.7%; Emma *O'Gorman, 3 from 17, 17.6%; N Day, 18 from 84, 17.0%; T Quinn,* 39 from 285, 13.7%; G Carter, 20 from 153, 13.1%; B Crossley, 8 from 66, 12.1%.

Pipe nears thousand

MARTIN Pipe needs only one winner to reach a National Hunt total of 1,000 after six winners from 11 runners yesterday. Pipe himself saddled a double at Newton Abbot with William Anthony and Cache Fleur, leaving his 17-year-old son, David, to supervise at Wincanton where the stable scored with all four runners — Sweet N' Twenty, Westway, Skipping Tim and Monday Club, all ridden by Jonothan Lower.

Skipping Tim, eight-length winner of the Mid Season Chase, continued the spectacular improvement he has made under Pipe's magical touch. The 11-year-old was winning his twelfth race and has accumulated more than £43,000 in prize-money since the trainer's father, Dave, bought him out of a Newton Abbot seller 18 months ago.

Arsenal extend their record start to the season with a comfortable win over Derby County while Liverpool are held to a draw

Freakish clearance by Seaman helps seal Arsenal's win

By DENNIS SIGNY

Arsenal........................ 3
Derby County.................. 0

THE poor weather and the dearth of public transport meant that the attendance at Highbury, 25,538, was the lowest of the season but the faithful who attended saw their side have little trouble in extending their unbeaten League sequence to 19 games and cutting Liverpool's lead at the top to four points.

Victory was achieved at some cost, though. David Rocastle, starting his first game for two months in the absence through injury of Perry Groves, broke a toe in his right foot in the first minute. Although he played on until the 59th minute, when he was substituted, he will be out of action for some weeks.

For David Seaman in the Arsenal goal the match was something of a triumph. Not only did he keep a clean sheet for the twelfth time but he also contributed to Arsenal's third goal after 78 minutes.

His wind-assisted clearance landed first bounce in the Derby penalty area. Martin Taylor, deputising for the *injured Peter Shilton*, managed to tip the ball onto the bar as it soared above him, only for Alan Smith to score with a diving header from the rebound. It was Smith's ninth goal in eight games but Seaman received more acclaim from his colleagues than the centre forward.

Smith had given Arsenal the impetus of a fourth-minute lead when, after a centre from Anders Limpar had gone over Mark Wright, he headed wide of a hesitant Taylor.

Notwithstanding Arsenal's superiority, there was some uncertainty in their defence, where Andy Linighan took time to settle, and Dean Saunders had four chances in the first 24 minutes.

When Gary Micklewhite put him away on the right before Arsenal were off the mark, he shot wildly. Then, when fed by Callaghan who was playing his final game for Derby at the end of a three-month loan period from Aston Villa, he put a good chance wide.

When he got away from Linighan after 22 minutes Saunders shot high and wide; then, when the impressive Callaghan provided another opening, Saunders shot straight at Seaman.

While all this was going on, Paul Davis, captaining Arsenal in the absence of *Adams, was cautioned for a* foul on Micklewhite, Taylor did well to hold a snap shot from Limpar and then excelled himself by tipping over a fierce drive from Michael Thomas.

Arsenal's second goal after 27 minutes followed a centre from Limpar from the left that Taylor, under pressure from Davis, pushed sideways. Paul Merson, coming in from the right, reacted quickly to curve the ball over the line. Although Paul Williams scooped the ball away, the referee was well placed.

Although George Graham, the Arsenal manager, reckoned that his side played better in the second half when they tightened up in defence, there was little to rouse the crowd until Smith's late goal.

After that Merson who had an outstanding game, whether creating chances or helping out in defence, gave Smith the chance for a third goal, but he turned his shot straight to Taylor's arms.

"We played better in two of the three recent games we have drawn," Graham said. He was not complaining, though, that Liverpool's lead has now been reduced to four points.

ARSENAL: D Seaman; L Dixon, N Winterburn, M Thomas, S Bould, A Linighan, D Rocastle (sub: K Campbell), P Davis, A Smith, P Merson, A Limper (sub: D O'Leary).

DERBY COUNTY: M Taylor; M Sage, N Pickering, P Williams (sub: J Davidson), M Wright, M Forsyth, G Micklewhite (sub: J Kavanagh), D Saunders, M Harford, C Ramage, N Callaghan.

Referee: R Pawley.

ANTHONY PHELPS

Keeping control: Burrows, of Liverpool, ready to resist the challenge from Wegerle, the Queen's Park Rangers forward. Report, page 28

Tottenham teased by Gallacher

By DENNIS SHAW

Coventry City.................. 2
Tottenham Hotspur........ 0

TERRY Butcher's first League victory as a player-manager served to demonstrate that, in terms of the championship, Tottenham Hotspur are heading nowhere.

Both their performance and the statistics of the match confirmed that any outside hopes Terry Venables might have harboured of making a serious sustained challenge to Liverpool and Arsenal have now evaporated.

With only four points to show from their last five matches, Tottenham face the new year in some disarray.

Butcher had waited since mid-November, a run of seven League matches, for his first taste of success. But before a crowd of 22,731, the highest at Highfield Road this season, it was one to savour.

Although the goals by Gallacher and Gynn were confined to a five-minute spell at the start of the second half, Coventry were the superior team in every department virtually throughout. Their reward for a thoroughly entertaining and inventive display was to climb out of the bottom three.

Many in the holiday crowd must have been disappointed at Gascoigne's anonymity but there was a range of fine individual performances in the Coventry ranks to enjoy.

While Gascoigne contributed little but the occasional quality pass and the odd verbal excess, the Coventry midfielders, Emerson and Gynn, bustled about to such good effect that Coventry were able to number their chances of goals in double figures.

Speedie, who was expected to mark Gascoigne but in the event played alongside Regis, looked menacing every time he ran at the defence.

Tottenham were unhinged from the opening moments by the mischievous Gallacher's tormenting of Mitchell Thomas down the right flank. Van den Hauwe was quickly switched in an attempt to close him down, but met with little success.

The second half was only 20 seconds old when Gallacher, Coventry's record buy, at £900,000, from Dundee United, pounced beyond the far post to add the final touch as Smith crossed from the left.

It was Gallacher's tenth goal of the season and his seventh in eight games. "That goal tore us apart and we played poorly after that," Venables said. "Just how much damage it has done us we'll have to wait and see."

Gynn, who marked Gascoigne out of the game, fired the second goal as Speedie and Gallacher prised another gap in Tottenham's overstretched defence which was unable to cope with the rare challenge offered by two rampant wingers.

A lenient referee restricted himself to a booking for Stewart for stamping at Emerson when the Coventry player was on the floor.

Butcher, back after injury, cruised through a trouble-free game. He said: "Some of the frustration at our run of results came out today. We were hungry for victory and could have scored more."

COVENTRY CITY: S Ogrizovic; B Burrows, P Edwards, D Emerson, T Butcher, T Peake, K Gallacher, M Gynn, C Regis, D Speedie, D Smith.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: E Thorstvedt; M Thomas, P Van Den Hauwe, S Sedgley (sub: Nayim), D Howells, G Mabbutt, P Stewart, P Gascoigne, P Allen, G Lineker, P Walsh (sub: V Samways).

Referee: T Holbrook.

Leeds make Wilkinson's points

By PETER BALL

Leeds United.................. 4
Chelsea.......................... 1

THE Boxing Day weather in West Yorkshire was as unfriendly for football as can be *imagined; rain lashed down* remorselessly as the wind swirled fiercely round Elland Road. But for at least 75 minutes, until the increasingly heavy pitch took its toll on tired limbs, Leeds and Chelsea provided outstanding seasonal entertainment.

The game, however, bore little resemblance to a scoreline which enabled Leeds to extend their unbeaten run to 13 matches with their highest score of the season and a move up to fourth place. Chelsea had also gone into the match on a run, having won their previous seven matches. Until Dorigo's injury upset their pattern, they had also played with a lively intelligence and purpose to test the home side's credentials fully.

"But was it good entertainment?" Howard Wilkinson demanded sarcastically afterwards. The Leeds manager, castigated last week for asserting that entertainment for spectators was not the primary purpose of sport, used the programme to explain himself. Clearly the criticism had rankled.

In the event, the players made his point — that entertainment comes out of the competition rather than being an end in itself, a seemingly uncontentious statement — for him. The competition between these two clubs, who have a history of lively exchanges, could almost be taken for granted.

And so it proved. Batty and Townsend contested midfield with unstinting spirit while the younger Chelsea players also acquitted themselves notably in the physcial exchanges. But if the competitive nature of the meeting was anticipated, there was still much to admire.

Indeed for the first half hour, Chelsea looked the better side as they attacked Leeds at their strongest point, their right hand side, occupying Sterland and Batty so much that Strachan was given no opportunity to make his presence felt while Dorigo's excellent passes forward made him the outstanding player on the pitch.

But as **half-time approached**, Sterland, Strachan and Batty began to weave their patterns to effect. Shutt met two crosses to force Beasant to a save and then to hit the bar. From the resulting corner of the latter, Sterland beat Beasant from the edge of the box, his second strike of the holiday period.

That tilted the balance as Dorigo stayed in the dressing room with a groin injury, and in the first five minutes after the break Leeds made their position secure. Chapman headed home Strachan's free-kick and then pounced on Townsend's attempt to tidy up after Shutt was *allowed to run on when looking* yards offside.

Briefly, Chelsea threatened to recover as Townsend ploughed through the mud and Dixon met Durie's cross to reduce the arrears. As the pitch got thicker Chelsea's drive declined, however, and Whitlock replaced Speed in time to have the final word with a tremendous drive.

LEEDS UNITED: J Lukic; M Sterland, G Snodin, D Batty, C Fairclough, C Whyte, G Strachan, C Shutt, L Chapman, G McAllister, G Speed (sub: M Whitlow).

CHELSEA: D Beasant; G Hall, A Dorigo (sub: K Wilson), A Townsend, J Cundy, E Johnsen, G Le Saux, G Stuart, K Dixon, G Durie, D Wise.

Referee: J Worrall.

Kendall's reshuffle comes up trumps

By IAN ROSS

Everton.......................... 1
Aston Villa 0

EVERTON emerged from a morass of mediocre football to claim what could prove to be a priceless victory at Goodison Park yesterday.

Everton's performance may have been less than convincing but when the priority is the accumulation of points and not the pursuit of footballing excellence the result will come as a relief to a club which has fallen on hard times.

When Howard Kendall returned to Everton he announced his intention of giving every one of his senior professionals an opportunity to impress before he decided on the team which would be handed the unenviable task of steering the club away from relegation.

Six weeks into a challenge, which is perhaps far more daunting than even he anticipated, Kendall has still to single out his regulars. Disturbed by his side's lack of cohesion during the defeat by Norwich City on Saturday, Kendall once again shuffled his pack of dispirited troops.

On this occasion, Sharp, Sheedy and Beagrie won recalls; Youds was offered the chance of a full senior debut and Cottee, the invariably out-of-form forward, failed to make even a provisional squad of 15 players.

In atrocious conditions, Everton made much of the early running but, although they courageously carried the game to their opponents, it was Villa who created by far the better of the early chances.

Daley's raking drive at the end of a powerful run was well saved by Southall and Cascarino went close with a header.

Everton, for all their effort, had but one opportunity to improve a dismal scoring record in a lifeless first half but Sheedy could only direct his header into the hands of Spink. They would have fared better had Sharp been afforded more support by a five-man midfield, for he was always Nielsen's equal and often his master.

The visitors should have taken the lead after 56 minutes but Daley contrived to drive his shot straight at Southall who scrambled the ball away to safety with his feet.

The magnitude of that error became apparent 12 minutes before the final whistle when Everton raised sufficient enthusiasm to claim the only goal of the game.

Youds crossed precisely and Sharp headed in for his first League goal in three months.

An ordinary game had an extraordinary finale for, as Nielsen's header drifted over the Everton goal-line in injury time, Platt hooked the ball away.

EVERTON: N Southall; E Youds, A Hinchcliffe, K Ratcliffe, D Watson, J Ebbrell, P Nevin, N McDonald, G Sharp, K Sheedy, P Beagrie.

ASTON VILLA: N Spink; C Price, S Gray, P McGrath, D Mountfield, K Nielsen, T Daley, D Platt, I Ormondroyd, G Cowans, A Cascarino.

Referee: D Phillips.

Travesty is averted by Bright's winner

By NICHOLAS HARLING

Crystal Palace 2
Sunderland 1

SUCH is the perverse logic of football that Sunderland, who might have lost by a netfull to Crystal Palace yesterday, left Selhurst Park complaining at the injustice of a refused penalty claim. But if Sunderland had some right to protest at Nigel Martyn's 81st-minute challenge on David Rush, they still deserved nothing from a match in which they had been subjected to an onslaught from almost first kick to last.

In the prevailing circumstances and conditions of a near gale, it would have been a travesty had Sunderland been able to hang on to the lead given them, against the run of play by Rush after 61 minutes. Ten minutes after he had come on for Gabbiadini, who had taken a slight knock, the young substitute met a treacherous cross from Owers with a close-range effort that bounced off the underside of the bar and over the line before Humphrey could clear.

The electronic scoreboard had obviously known something that the rest did not. A few minutes earlier it proclaimed erroneously: C Palace 0, Sunderland 1. Now it was reality. But Rush's first League goal — scored with all the opportunism of his more famous namesake — stirred Palace into a rousing response, even more frenetic, if that was possible, than all their earlier unrewarded endeavour.

The first stab at an equaliser, by Gray, was straight at Norman but the next by Salako, with his left foot from the edge of the area, could not have been better directed. It came in the 78th minute after Sunderland had failed to clear Gray's long throw.

Sunderland, playing with a confidence not evident earlier, might have regained the lead had Martyn, caught, as usual, off his line, not backpedalled desperately to heave over a long drive from the improving Owers. Then came Martyn's controversial lunge at Rush and finally the 85th-minute winner from Bright with a characteristically deft and looping header from Salako's cross.

One could sympathise with the claim by Dennis Smith, the Sunderland manager, that "it was a blatant penalty", but the viewpoint of his counterpart, Steve Coppell, was the more popular. "We deserved victory," he said. "We were the side looking to push forward to win."

A match that had been ragged to start with had become a compelling spectacle long before the end, helped largely by the intensity of Palace's barrage that they will do well to repeat for Liverpool's visit on Sunday. Twice Wright, put clear by Gray and from Bright's flick-on, shot straight at Norman. Kay also cleared off the line from the Palace forward as he was to do twice later from headers by Bright and Thorn.

When Gray, for once, allowed Thomas the responsibility for a free kick, the shot clattered against the bar. The end for Sunderland was near, even if it hardly came via the expected sequence of events.

CRYSTAL PALACE: N Martyn; J Humphrey, R Shaw, A Gray, E Young, A Thorn, J Salako, G Thomas, M Bright, I Wright, E McGoldrick.

SUNDERLAND: A Norman; J Kay, P Hardyman, G Bennett, K Ball, G Owers, P Bracewell, G Armstrong, R Ord, M Gabbiadini (sub: D Rush), C Pascoe.

Referee: P Foakes.

Deane at the head of revival

By KEITH PIKE

ALL of a sudden, **Sheffield United** can do no wrong. Having gone 16 games without a win, *Dave Bassett's team celebrated* its second three-point haul inside five days when winning 1-0 at *Luton Town* yesterday.

Brian Deane, who clinched United's first success last Saturday with the winner against Nottingham Forest, was again the player they had to thank. He raced on to Wilder's pass and rounded Chamberlain to score his tenth goal of the season.

Few would begrudge Bassett another moment to savour. "We have broken down a lot of barriers and I believe we can stay up," he said.

The Luton midfield player, Ceri Hughes, who damaged knee ligaments during the game, is expected to have an operation tomorrow and will be out of action for up to four weeks.

Forest themselves survived hectic second-half pressure from Wimbledon to cling on to three points at the City Ground. McGee and Scales both hit the woodwork, but Brian Clough's side held on to gain victory.

They took an eleventh-minute lead in bizarre fashion when an attempted clearance by Segers rebounded into the net off Pearce. Wimbledon drew level through Fashanu, but a minute later — on the stroke of half-time — Keane headed Forest back in front.

Matthew Le Tissier scored ten minutes from time to give Southampton their first League victory since November 10 and end a run of seven games without a win. Manchester City had led through Quinn after 36 minutes, only for Horne to equalise four minutes later.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS, TABLES AND GOALSCORERS

Barclays League

First division

ARSENAL (2) 3 Smith 4 77 Merson 26	DERBY (0) 0 25,538
COVENTRY (0) 2 Gallacher 46 Gynn 50	TOTTENHAM (0) 0 22,731
C PALACE (0) 2 Salako 78 Bright 85	SUNDRLAND (0) 1 Rush 62 15,228
EVERTON (0) 1 Sharp 78	A VILLA (0) 0 27,804
LEEDS UTD (1) 4 Sterland 40 Chapman 46 49 Whitlow 88	CHELSEA (0) 1 Dixon 65 30,893
LUTON (0) 0 10,004	SHEFF UTD (0) 1 Deane 71
MAN UTD (0) 3 Hughes 54 McClair 69 89	NORWICH (0) 0 39,801
NOTTM FOR (2) 2 Pearce 11 Keane 45	WIMBLEDON (1) 1 Fashanu 44 16,221
QPR (0) 1 Falco 57 17,848	LIVERPOOL (0) 1 Barnes 47
SOTON (1) 2 Horne 40 Le Tissier 81	MAN CITY (1) 1 Quinn 36 18,029

		HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	18	8	1	0	23	5	6	2	1	15	10	45
Arsenal	19	7	2	0	21	4	5	5	0	15	5	41
C Palace	19	6	3	0	15	9	5	3	2	15	9	39
Leeds Utd	19	6	2	2	21	10	4	4	1	12	8	36
Tottenham	19	7	2	1	25	13	2	4	3	8	9	33
Man Utd	19	6	1	3	18	9	3	4	2	11	12	31
Chelsea	19	6	4	0	17	11	2	1	6	18	26	29
Man City	18	6	1	2	16	12	0	7	2	11	14	26
Norwich	19	6	1	3	16	15	2	1	6	8	16	26
Wimbledon	19	3	4	3	13	14	3	3	3	16	14	25
Nottm For	18	4	2	2	14	10	2	4	4	12	16	24
Luton	19	3	4	2	9	7	2	1	7	11	23	20
A Villa	18	3	5	0	11	6	1	2	7	6	13	19
Soton	19	4	2	3	15	12	1	2	7	11	24	19
Everton	19	4	3	3	14	9	0	3	6	6	15	18
Coventry	19	3	4	3	14	12	1	1	7	4	12	17
Derby Co	18	2	5	3	12	16	2	0	6	5	16	17
Sunderland	19	2	4	4	9	10	1	2	6	12	18	15
QPR	19	2	2	5	12	13	1	3	6	11	22	14
Sheff Utd	18	1	2	5	8	13	1	2	7	5	19	10

VAUXHALL LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke 0, Enfield 4; Bishop's Stortford 1, Wivenhoe 2; Hayes 2, Harrow 0, Marlow 2, Staines 1; St Albans 3, Hendon 0; Woking 4, Wokingham 0. Other matches postponed. **First division:** Harlow 4, Molesey 1; Tooting and Mitcham 2, Heybridge Swifts 0. Other matches postponed. **Second division south:** Abingdon 2, Flackwell Heath 1; Chertsey 3, Feltham 1; Horsham 3, Epsom and Ewell 0. Other matches postponed. **Second division north:** Rainham 1, Clapton 0; Saffron Walden 1, Hornchurch 0; Stevenage Borough 1, Hertford 0. Vauxhall Motors 2, Berkhamsted 1, Ware 3, Royston 1; Witham 1, Billericay 0. Other matches postponed.

Second division

BLACKBURN (0) 0 8,648	NOTTS CO (1) 1 Barnett 20
BRIGHTON (0) 0 6,536	BRISTOL R (1) 1 Saunders 3
BRISTOL C (1) 4 Morgan 24 46 Shelton 71 Rennie 76	PORTSMTH (1) 1 Clarke 44 11,292
HULL (1) 3 Swan 38 90 Payton 47 5,103	OXFORD (0) 3 Magilton 59 Durnin 64 Stein 75
IPSWICH (0) 0 12,508	MIDDLSBRO (0) 1 Baird 55
MILLWALL (1) 2 Sheringham 31 (pen) 48	LEICESTER (0) 1 Oldfield 78 6,665
NEWCASTLE (1) 1 Quinn 34 17,003	SWINDON (1) 1 Gibson 11
PLYMOUTH (0) 1 Morgan 54 5,668	BARNSLEY (0) 1 Rammell 85
SHEFF WED (2) 2 McCall 6 Palmer 25 29,686	WOLVES (0) 2 Cook 72 Bull 84
WATFORD (1) 2 Penrice 17 Thomas 82	PORT VALE (0) 1 Earle 56 8,084
WBA (1) 1 Goodman 10	CHARLTON (0) 0 9,305
WEST HAM (1) 2 Morley 10 Slater 46	OLDHAM (0) 0 24,950

		HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Ham	23	9	3	0	25	7	5	5	1	10	6	50
Oldham	22	10	2	0	30	12	4	3	3	11	12	47
Middlesbro	22	5	1	4	15	7	7	3	2	22	10	40
Sheff Wed	22	4	7	0	24	14	6	3	2	20	12	40
Notts Co	22	6	3	2	22	18	4	2	3	11	9	36
Wolves	22	6	2	2	24	12	2	7	3	12	15	33
Millwall	22	5	4	3	24	17	3	3	4	8	12	31
Bristol C	21	6	3	2	23	13	3	1	6	11	20	31
Brighton	21	5	3	3	19	22	4	1	5	12	19	31
Barnsley	22	5	4	1	20	8	2	5	5	10	15	30
Bristol R	21	5	3	3	13	9	3	3	4	14	15	30
Port Vale	22	6	1	3	18	12	2	3	5	14	21	28
Ipswich	23	4	4	3	13	12	2	8	4	15	22	28
Swindon	23	4	3	5	11	12	2	6	3	18	21	27
Newcastle	21	3	5	2	18	9	3	3	5	13	15	26
WBA	22	4	5	2	13	10	2	3	5	14	20	26
Blackburn	23	4	2	6	11	12	3	2	6	14	20	25
Charlton	22	3	2	5	12	14	3	4	5	15	18	24
Plymouth	23	4	6	2	16	13	1	2	8	10	27	23
Leicester	22	5	2	3	20	17	1	3	8	10	30	23
Watford	23	2	3	6	8	14	3	4	5	12	15	22
Portsmth	23	3	5	3	14	15	2	2	8	11	23	22
Hull	23	4	5	2	22	28	1	2	9	13	36	22
Oxford	22	3	4	3	21	20	1	5	6	13	24	21

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Chippenham 1, Mangotsfield 2; Exmouth 1, Dawlish 2; Torrington 1, Plymouth Argyle 1. Other matches postponed.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Murton 0, Seaham Red Star 0; South Bank 3, Stockton 2; Whitby 0, Guisborough 0. Other matches postponed.

Third division

BOURNEMTH (0) 0 5,280	MANSFIELD (0) 0
BIRMINGHAM (0) 0 6,812	BRENTFORD (0) 2 Blissett 54 88
CAMBRIDGE (3) 3 Cheetham 7 Bailie 13 Dublin 26	TRANMERE (0) 1 Steel 82 4,547
CREWE (1) 2 Gardiner 17 Murphy 85 4,405	PRESTON (1) 2 Bogie 6 Shaw 46
FULHAM (0) 0 3,021	BRADFORD (0) 0
READING (1) 2 Gooding 38 46	GRIMSBY (0) 0 3,045
ROTHERHAM (0) 2 Evans 50 Spooner 78	CHESTER (0) 1 Butler 52 3,547
SOUTHEND (0) 1 Tilson 68 7,539	BOLTON (0) 1 Green 85
STOKE (1) 2 Biggins 45 Thomas 70	SWANSEA (1) 2 Gilligan 17 90 12,534
WIGAN (3) 4 Page 12 Daley 31 Griffiths 34 59	EXETER (0) 1 Tankard 89 og 2,045

POSTPONED: Bury v Leyton Orient; Shrewsbury v Huddersfield.

		HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southend	20	8	2	0	22	11	6	1	3	15	14	45
Grimsby	20	7	2	1	22	8	5	2	3	11	10	40
Bradford	20	5	2	3	10	9	4	5	1	10	11	34
L Orient	19	9	0	1	19	7	2	1	6	7	16	34
Bolton	20	4	3	3	13	11	5	2	3	12	13	32
Cambridge	20	4	2	4	20	18	4	5	1	15	10	31
Bury	19	6	2	1	18	10	2	4	4	12	15	30
Stoke	20	4	3	3	17	12	4	3	3	10	12	30
Tranmere	20	4	3	3	17	11	4	2	4	14	14	29
Bournemth	20	6	4	0	18	8	1	4	5	5	14	29
Reading	20	4	3	3	14	17	4	1	5	12	12	28
Huddersfld	19	5	1	4	16	12	3	3	3	9	11	28
Brentford	20	4	0	6	12	12	4	4	2	11	9	28
Wigan	21	6	1	3	18	11	2	2	6	11	19	27
Birmingham	20	3	5	2	10	9	3	4	3	10	13	27
Swansea	20	5	4	1	18	9	2	1	7	6	17	26
Preston	20	4	4	2	11	12	2	3	5	13	18	25
Exeter	20	4	4	2	12	7	2	1	7	10	17	23
Chester	20	3	2	5	10	12	3	2	5	10	11	22
Crewe	20	1	5	4	11	15	3	1	6	19	21	18
Mansfield	20	2	2	6	7	13	2	4	4	12	15	18
Shrewsbury	19	2	3	4	10	12	2	2	6	21	24	17
Fulham	20	3	3	4	11	11	0	5	5	8	15	17
Rotherham	20	3	3	4	14	15	0	1	9	7	25	13

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bangor City 0, Witton 1; Bishop Auckland 3, Goole 0; Gainsborough 3, Shepshed 2; Leek 2, Frickley 1; Marine 2, Southport 3; Mossley 3, Droylsden 3. Other matches postponed. **First division:** Accrington Stanley 4, Rossendale 0; Bridlington Town 3, Worksop 1; Curzon Ashton 4, Newtown 1; Eastwood Town 1, Alfreton 0; Lancaster 2, Whitley Bay 0; Rhyl 0, Caernarfon 0; Winsford 0, Congleton 3. Other matches postponed.

Fourth division

BLACKPOOL (1) 1 Garner 39 3,658	PETERBORO (1) 1 Culpin 45
CARDIFF (1) 3 Pike 33 Taylor 46 56	CARLISLE (0) 1 Jeffels 84 2,281
DONCASTER (1) 3 Brevett 23 59 (pen) Grayson 70	MAIDSTONE (0) 0 2,717
GILLINGHAM (0) 1 Lovell 79	WALSALL (0) 0 3,695
SCARBORO (1) 4 Mockler 37 Oghani 66 71 (pen) Hirst 82	HALIFAX (1) 1 Norris 34 1,327
WREXHAM (1) 1 Preece 25 2,109	HEREFORD (1) 2 Robinson 32 Phillips 46

POSTPONED: Aldershot v Darlington; Chesterfield v Burnley; Hartlepool v Stockport; Rochdale v York; Scunthorpe v Northampton; Torquay v Lincoln.

		HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Doncaster	20	6	2	1	16	5	4	3	4	14	12	35
Northampton	19	7	1	1	16	6	3	4	3	12	17	35
Burnley	19	8	2	0	21	5	2	2	5	14	19	34
Torquay	19	6	2	1	14	5	3	5	2	13	14	34
Darlington	18	6	2	1	14	5	3	4	2	14	11	33
Stockport	19	7	3	0	20	6	1	5	3	8	11	32
Peterboro	20	6	3	1	16	7	2	5	3	7	16	32
Hartlepool	19	6	1	2	12	6	3	2	5	11	19	30
Walsall	20	4	6	0	16	9	3	2	5	11	16	29
Gillingham	20	6	2	2	19	11	1	5	4	9	14	28
Hereford	20	4	6	1	18	10	2	3	4	10	10	27
Rochdale	19	5	3	2	15	8	2	3	4	10	13	27
Scarboro	21	6	2	3	18	12	1	4	5	9	18	27
Cardiff	20	3	4	3	13	14	3	4	3	7	11	26
Carlisle	20	6	2	2	12	8	1	2	6	9	21	25
Maidstone	20	4	2	4	22	13	3	1	6	11	14	24
Scunthorpe	18	6	2	1	15	6	0	4	5	8	19	24
Blackpool	20	4	3	3	18	12	1	3	6	8	15	21
Wrexham	20	3	4	3	16	14	2	0	8	9	19	19
York	18	2	4	3	12	11	1	4	4	4	10	17
Aldershot	19	3	5	1	19	17	0	3	7	9	26	17
Chesterfld	19	3	5	1	13	11	0	2	8	6	16	16
Halifax	19	3	2	4	10	12	1	2	7	11	21	16
Lincoln	18	3	5	2	12	11	0	2	6	4	17	16

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ards 0, Crusaders 0; Ballyclare Comrades 3, Larne 3; Coleraine 0, Ballymena 1; Carrick 0, Distillery 2; Linfield 1, Glentoran 1; Omagh Town 2, Glenavon 5, Portadown 2, Newry 1. **Postponed:** Cliftonville v Bangor.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Burton 1, Atherstone 0; Chelmsford 1, Gravesend 0; Dartford 1, Dover 0; Dorchester 1, Weymouth 3; Halesowen 1, Bromsgrove 1; Moor Green 2, VS Rugby 2; Waterlooville 0, Farnborough 2; Worcester 1 Gloucester 1. Other matches postponed. **Midland division:** Alvechurch 7, Redditch Utd 2; Bilston 2, Willenhall 1; Leicester Utd 1, Hinckley 1; Nuneaton Borough 1, Bedworth 0; Stourbridge 3, Dudley 1. Other matches postponed. **Southern division:** Bury 0, Sudbury 3, Hastings 0, Ashford 0; Witney 0, Buckingham 2. Other matches postponed.

GM Vauxhall Conference

BATH (1) 2 Lunden 44 Randall 66	YEOVIL (0) 1 Dent 88 1,476
COLCHESTR (0) 0 3,946	BARNET (0) 0
GATESHEAD (3) 5 Butler 8 11 65 Sharkey 44 Allen 49	BARROW (1) 1 Cowperthwaite 13 715
KETTERING (0) 1 Slack 57 3,207	BOSTON (1) 1 Cavell 5
MERTHYR (1) 1 Rogers 8 814	KIDDRMSTR (2) 2 Hadley 22 Howell 31
STAFFORD R (1) 1 Tuohy 26 1,206	TELFORD (1) 1 Nelson 5
SUTTON UTD (1) 5 McKinnon 45 76 Massey 61 Dennis 74 Barnes 79	SLOUGH (1) 2 Sissons 42 Anderson 71 814
WELLING (0) 1 Abbott 80 926	FISHER ATH (0) 1 Blackford 68
WYCOMBE (0) 0 3,048	CHELTENHM (1) 2 Casey 24 82

POSTPONED: Macclesfield v Altrincham; Northwich v Runcorn.

		HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kettering	23	9	3	0	21	4	7	3	1	15	10	54
Barnet	20	7	2	1	30	8	5	4	1	24	11	42
Colchester	21	7	2	0	18	4	5	3	4	15	13	41
Altrincham	18	6	2	1	17	7	5	3	1	14	8	38
Kidderminstr	22	5	3	3	21	18	5	3	3	12	14	36
Wycombe	20	8	1	1	22	9	2	4	3	18	16	35
Welling	20	6	4	1	19	12	3	2	4	11	12	33
Slough	22	7	2	3	19	12	2	2	7	19	27	31
Macclesfield	19	4	3	2	13	8	3	4	3	12	15	28
Telford	19	3	2	5	12	13	4	2	3	10	9	25
Northwich	19	4	2	2	14	10	3	2	6	20	27	25
Boston	18	4	2	2	19	10	2	4	4	9	18	24
Gateshead	21	6	1	4	17	27	1	2	5	9	21	24
Barrow	21	3	5	2	13	11	2	3	6	13	22	23
Sutton U	20	4	2	5	19	19	2	2	5	16	19	22
Runcorn	20	6	2	2	21	13	0	2	8	8	24	22
Merthyr	20	5	2	5	24	16	1	1	6	6	14	21
Cheltenham	19	2	3	3	8	10	2	3	5	10	19	18
Stafford	20	3	4	3	17	16	1	1	8	5	15	17
Yeovil	19	3	2	3	9	9	1	3	7	8	17	17
Bath	21	3	3	4	17	16	1	2	8	10	21	17
Fisher Ath	21	2	5	3	8	11	1	2	8	10	34	16

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Gorleston 1, Great Yarmouth 1; Harwich and Parkeston 1, Brantham Athletic 2, Lowestoft 1, Wroxham 1; Watton 4, Thetford 0, Wisbech 4, Haverhill 1.

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES: First division: Nantwich 1, Vauxhall GM 1. Other matches postponed.

LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Limerick 1, Cork City 6; St Patrick's Athletic 2, Shamrock Rovers 1; Derry City 6, Galway United 1. Leading positions: 1, (joint), St Patrick's Athletic and Cork City, played 17, 26pts; 3, Dundalk 16, 24.

McClair provides the flair at Old Trafford

By LOUISE TAYLOR

Manchester United........ 3
Norwich City 0

ALEX Ferguson has acknowledged that Mark Hughes and Brian McClair are far from perfect attacking partners, but the Manchester United forwards repaid their manager's faith with three goals between them at Old Trafford yesterday.

Played beneath a dark sky, amid a gusting wind, and on a ground sodden by a morning of incessant rain, it was surprising that the fixture survived a pitch inspection.

The fibreglass dugout used to *house the Manchester United* management and substitutes lasted no longer than five minutes before it blew over and broke apart.

Mercifully, no one was injured and the crowd of 39,801 was able to revel in a bright beginning from United for whom Bryan Robson, restored to fitness and wearing the captain's armband, was vigorous, if a little rusty, in the midfield.

United's slick short passing approach, in which Neil Webb and Paul Ince proved prominent, was both attractive to the eye and awkward for the Norwich defence which had to depend on Bryan Gunn to save well from McClair and Webb in the first half.

City attempted to play it longer, a tactic which proved to little avail against the height of Gary Pallister and Steve Bruce, not to mention the wind.

Nevertheless, Norwich threatened on the occasions when Mark Bowen advanced from left back. One such raid, shortly after half time, caught the home defence unawares and relieved that Tim Sherwood proved unequal to the *opening carved* by the defender's centre.

This fright served to rouse United, who promptly assumed the lead. Bruce took a free kick which Pallister chipped in the direction of Mark Hughes who chested the ball down before swivelling splendidly to lash it past Gunn from the right hand perimeter of the penalty area.

A quarter of an hour later, in the 69th minute, United doubled their lead.

Robson appeared to be looking to play a one-two with Webb in the Norwich penalty area but McClair intercepted to whip the ball past Gunn.

McClair *reinforced* the scoreline in the final minute, meeting another Webb pass to deepen Gunn's despair with a well executed angled shot from 20 yards which sealed United's first win against Norwich since October 1987.

Mancunian satisfaction was heightened by the fact that Robson survived unscathed, departing late in the second half to rapturous applause.

MANCHESTER UNITED: L Sealey; D Irwin, C Blackmore, S Bruce, N Webb, G Pallister, B Robson (sub: M Phelan), P Ince, B McClair, M Hughes, L Sharpe (sub: M Donaghy).

NORWICH CITY: B Gunn; I Culverhouse, N Bowen, I Butterworth, J Polston, I Crook, D Gordon, L Power (sub: D Such), T Sherwood, R Fox, D Phillips.

Referee: A Seville.

Leading scorers

BARCLAYS LEAGUE: (League goals in brackets): **First division:** 14: I Rush (Liverpool, 9). 13: R Wegerle (QPR, 13). D Platt (Aston Villa, 8). D Saunders (Derby County, 10). P Gascoigne (Tottenham, 7). 12: L Chapman (Leeds Utd, 10). 11: I Wright (Crystal Palace, 8). P Beardsley (Liverpool, 11); L Elstrup (Luton, 10). M Le Tissier (Southampton, 10). G Lineker (Tottenham, 10). **Second division:** 18: S Bull (Wolverhampton Wanderers, 17). 17: D Hirst (Sheffield Wednesday, 12). 16: A Payton (Hull, 18); E Sheringham (Millwall, 13). B Slaven (Middlesbrough, 11).

Reid grasps his chance with both hands

The first division is a tough proving ground for someone trying to adjust to life between the board room and the dressing-room. Alix Ramsay meets Peter Reid, Manchester City's player-manager

HE is usually referred to as the Old Warhorse or the Old Grey Fox. With his grey hair and nearly 20 years experience behind him, anybody could be forgiven for thinking that Peter Reid is as old as Methuselah.

But at the age of 34 Reid finds himself playing as well as ever and loving every minute of it. Six weeks ago, he entered the minefield of management, taking over as player-manager of Manchester City. Management was always on his agenda but the timing of his move surprised everybody. One day, he was a player under Howard Kendall, the next, he was filling the boss's shoes.

"I thought I was going to play out my career under Howard," he said. "There was no way I'd mapped out to be a player-manager but the opportunity arose and I tried to grasp it with both hands."

And grasp it he did. As soon as he knew Kendall was going back to Everton, Reid announced he wanted the job. He made his position clear — he would take-over as caretaker-manager for one game only, then the board would have to make a decision.

"The chairman knew me here as a player. If they wanted me as a manager they'd pick me after one game. I didn't want to hang about."

He feels that making his management debut in the first division is easier than starting out in the lower divisions. The more quality players at your disposal, the more chance you have of success and he is full of praise for the way his team has responded since he took over. But there are still tough decisions to be made.

"The first one was leaving out Alan Harper and playing Ian Brightwell," he said. "That was difficult for me because Alan has been one of our most consistent players and I know him from our Everton days together. But I just felt it was the right thing to do. It's not the nicest job in the world but it's one that had to be done."

Although Reid is a man to make up his own mind, he is more than willing to take advice. "I'm not one who thinks he can do it all himself."

To make life simple, he has divided his week in two. On Thursday and Friday he tries to put his feet up and prepare as a player for the match on Saturday. Match-day decisions on the bench come from the former Bury manager, Sam Ellis. When it comes to administration he takes counsel from the chairman, Peter Swales, and the secretary, Bernard Halford. "But in the end the decisions are mine," he said.

Reid has spent his working life as one of the team, one of the lads. He is an instantly likeable man with his thick Liverpool accent, a ready smile and a handshake like a mechanical grab. But now as player-manager he is caught somewhere between the boardroom and the dressing-room.

"I've always enjoyed my football and I've always enjoyed the banter with the players," he explained. "Maybe I've got to be a little bit detached now, but I'm not going to change my personality. I'll do it my way — I'll have a laugh and a joke with the lads but if there are tough decisions to be made I'll make them. I'm honest and I can talk to people and I think with those attributes you've got a chance."

So far his record speaks for itself. He is yet to taste defeat as a manager. "But I'm not daft enough to think you can be on top for 90 minutes in every game," he said. "If things go wrong you've just got to buckle down and work hard and if you've got quality players it will come right eventually."

As a player he regards his greatest moment as the 1986 World Cup, although he blames the Mexican sunshine for finally turning him grey. As a manager his ambitions are a little closer to home: "I know it's an old football cliche, but I just want to get the next game over with."

And what of the future? "They can only sack you, they can't do any more than that."

Peter Reid: relishing dual role

Oldham's surrender enables West Ham to climb back on top

By Peter Robinson

West Ham United 2
Oldham Athletic 0

IF EVER a defeat was painless, then this, it seems, was it. Oldham Athletic may have just lost the leadership of the second division and given one of the most lukewarm displays they are likely to produce this season, but Joe Royle, their manager, emerged from the dressing-room with the air of a man still savouring his Christmas turkey.

Relaxed, almost genial, Royle greeted defeat with an easy smile and a shrug. "Having lost, it doesn't mean we won't go up," he said, with unanswerable logic. "We are still in a great position. We can play a lot better than we did, but then today wasn't our day. There will be other days that are. Nothing has changed."

And little has: West Ham and Oldham are still setting the pace for the rest to follow, there is still a sizeable gap between second and third in the table, and the two clubs continue to play the most advanced and attractive football outside the first division.

For West Ham, of course, the victory was almost essential. Their 21-match unbeaten run had come to an end last week, and two defeats on the trot would have posed some awkward questions. Excellent goals by Tony Morley and Stuart Slater provided the most emphatic of answers before the inquisition could get under way.

With that one blemish providing West Ham's motivation, and the support of their largest home crowd of the season adding a further spur, the odds were, in retrospect, heavily weighted in the Londoners' favour. West Ham wanted the victory more than Oldham, and they got it.

Although lacking the injured quartet of Dicks, Martin, Bishop and McAvennie, their football was intelligent, crisp and constructive. Foster's control at centre half formed the foundation of attacks built from the back and finished, more often than not, with menace by Morley and Quinn.

The lead was established after only ten minutes, Morley controlling Foster's header with his chest before volleying home. It should have been doubled in less than 20 when Quinn saw his lame penalty saved by Hallworth, the goalkeeper, after Morley had been brought down by Barrett.

Oldham stemmed the tide until half-time, often relying on Hallworth and the mercurial Barrett to plug the gaps, only for the defensive dam to be breached again one minute after the interval. Keen found Breacker running free on the right as Oldham stood watching, and his cross-cum-shot was bundled over the line by Slater.

Oldham tried manfully to claw their way back, but though West Ham tired on the cloying surface, a goal was never likely. Currie's tame header at Miklosko was the best effort they could manage, while Hallworth was called on to deny brilliantly Morley, Parris and Slater.

The reaction of the two managers to the result said much about the preceding 90 minutes. "It was an important result for us, because if you lose after a run like ours, you have to bounce back well," Billy Bonds, of West Ham, remarked. Royle was more phlegmatic: "We lost. If we lose three more games out of the next 22, then we will go up. We knew that before we started."

WEST HAM UNITED: L Miklosko; T Breacker, G Parris, A Gale, C Foster, C Hughton, K Keen, J Quinn, S Slater, M Allen, T Morley.
OLDHAM ATHLETIC: J Hallworth; P Warhurst, A Barlow, N Henry, E Barrett, R Jobson, W Donachie (sub: D Currie), R Palmer, I Marshall, N Radliann, R Holden.
Referee: J Carter.


Taking a trip: Morley is brought down by Barrett at Upton Park but Quinn missed the penalty for West Ham

Wolves endanger Sheffield's hopes

THEY might be unbeaten at Hillsborough, but **Sheffield Wednesday's** inability to make home advantage tell is threatening to ruin their second division promotion hopes (Keith Pike writes).

Having gone 2-0 up inside 25 minutes, they had a defender, John Harkes, sent off for a late tackle on Dennison, and then **allowed Wolverhampton Wanderers** to fight back and earn a point.

Paul Cook set up Steve Bull for a 72nd-minute equaliser.

Wednesday have forfeited third place to **Middlesbrough**. The team won 1-0 at **Ipswich Town** with a 55th-minute header from Baird, while **Notts County** maintained their challenge at **Blackburn**, courtesy of Bartlett's goal in the twentieth minute.

Bristol Rovers and **Bristol City** both won again yesterday.

Nicky Morgan scored twice against his former club as City won 4-1 against **Portsmouth** at Ashton Gate, while Carl Saunders's third-minute goal gave Rovers a 1-0 triumph at **Brighton**.

Millwall's run of ten games without a win came to an end as Teddy Sheringham scored both goals, one a penalty, in a 2-1 win against **Leicester City** at The Den.

Steve Perryman continues to exceed **Watford's** wildest dreams. Yesterday they beat **Port Vale** 2-1 at Vicarage Road to extend their unbeaten run under Perryman to six matches.

They are replaced at the bottom by **Oxford United**, who fought back from 2-0 down to lead 3-2 at fellow-strugglers, **Hull City**, only to concede an equaliser.

Kettering remain way out in front

KETTERING kept their 12-point lead at the head of the GM Vauxhall Conference by drawing 1-1 with **Boston** yesterday afternoon after their closest pursuers, **Barnet** and **Colchester**, had played out a 0-0 draw at Layer Road in the morning (Walter Gammie writes). Paul Cavell put Boston into a fifth minute lead which Kettering did not cancel until Trevor Slack scored in the 57th minute.

Kim Casey scored both goals for **Cheltenham** as they won 2-0 at **Wycombe** but they stayed bottom of the table as **Bath** beat **Yeovil** 2-1 and **Fisher Athletic** drew 1-1 at **Welling**, where they had Jerry Murphy sent off. Charles Butler scored three goals as improving **Gateshead** beat **Barrow** 5-1, and Paul McKinnon was twice on target in **Sutton's** 5-2 win over **Slough**.

Woking, the Surrey side who play West Bromwich Albion at the Hawthorns in the third round of the FA Cup on January 5, crushed **Wokingham** 4-0 at Kingfield to regain the leadership of the Vauxhall League on goal difference from **Redbridge Forest**, whose match against **Dagenham** was postponed.

Worcester City, the Beazer Homes League premier division leaders, dropped further points when they were held 1-1 at home by **Gloucester City**, but second-placed **Dover**, the champions, could not make up ground as they lost 1-0 at **Dartford**.

Bolton steal respectable draw

By Keith Blackmore

Southend United 1
Bolton Wanderers 1

RAIN, wind and a slippery pitch made life difficult at Roots Hall yesterday but Southend United and Bolton Wanderers managed to put on a respectable show for the holiday crowd.

The result flattered Bolton and they needed a late, lucky equaliser to achieve it, but Southend could draw comfort from the fact that, with Grimsby Town losing 2-0 to Reading, they had extended their lead at the top of the third division to five points. The match progressed in fits and starts as if the players could only forget the conditions for short periods at a time, but it was no doubt improved as a spectacle by the fact that the long ball could not be trusted.

This was a day for quick passing and intelligent running and in Butler and Angell, Southend had exponents of both.

These two might have given them the lead in the tenth minute, Butler's pass allowing Angell to leave Winstanley slithering in his wake, but Fellgate emerged from his goal in time to intercept.

Ten minutes later, Butler tried again but this time Angell was forced out to the left by Brown. The same players were behind Southend's best chance in the first half. After 43 minutes, Angell outjumped Came and his header found Butler. A quick pass gave Locke an excellent opportunity 15 yards out but his low shot passed across the face of the goal.

By half-time, Bolton had only once threatened to score, Philliskirk's header from Comstive's corner flying just over the bar, but six minutes after the break they almost took the lead. Cowdrill and Reeves combined on the left to produce a cross which, after several deflections, reached Philliskirk, who forced a fine save from Sansome.

Butler responded with a header, then a 25-yard shot, both of which Fellgate saved, before Southend took the lead in the 67th minute. Clark's free-kick was headed on by Angell to Benjamin, who chested the ball into the path of Tilson. His volley from 12 yards gave Fellgate no chance.

That should have been that, especially since Southend had the wind at their backs but Phil Neal, the Bolton manager, sent on Green for Comstive and was rewarded five minutes from full time.

Fellgate's long clearance fell between Prior and Sansome, Reeves intervened and Green was left to tap in the equaliser.

David Webb, the manager of Southend, was disappointed. "Goals in the last five minutes of each of our last two matches have cost us five points," he said. "Still, I thought both teams were a credit to the third division."

SOUTHEND UNITED: P Sansome; D Austin, C Powell, D Martin, S Prior, S Tilson, P Clark, P Butler, A Locke, I Benjamin, B Angell.
BOLTON WANDERERS: D Fellgate; P Brown, S Cowdrill, P Comstive (sub: S Green), M Came, M Winstanley, S Storer, S Thompson, D Reeves, A Philliskirk, J Darby.
Referee: J Moules.

Gooding no good to Grimsby

WITH the third division leaders, **Southend United**, held at home by **Bolton Wanderers**, second-placed **Grimsby Town** had hopes of narrowing the gap when they travelled to **Reading** (Keith Pike writes). But the side which scored five against Bournemouth last Saturday could only manage one shot on target this time, while at the other end a goal in each half by Gooding condemned them to a 2-0 defeat.

With **Leyton Orient's** scheduled game at **Bury** postponed, **Brentford** took the opportunity to move into third place with a 2-0 victory at **Birmingham City**, but not before Kevin Godfrey became the latest player to suffer the consequences of committing a professional foul.

Godfrey was dismissed after just 11 minutes, but Gary Blissett scored both their second-half goals, and Birmingham supporters, who have seen their side win just two of their last 16 games, staged a post-match demonstration calling for the resignation of the manager, Dave Mackay.

Adrian Hughes, of **Preston North End**, was also sent off in the 2-2 draw at **Crewe Alexandra** for a professional foul.

Three goals in the first 26 minutes enabled **Cambridge United** to beat **Tranmere** 3-1 and leapfrog over them into sixth place.

Struggling **Fulham**, without a League win since October, rarely looked like ending that run in a dismal goalless draw with **Bradford City** at Craven Cottage. **Bournemouth** and **Mansfield Town** also drew 0-0, but there was better news for the bottom club, **Rotherham United**, who upset **Chester** 2-1.

Six of the scheduled 12 matches in the fourth division were postponed — including those involving the top five sides — and that opened the way for **Doncaster Rovers** to take over the leadership. Their 3-0 home win over **Maidstone United** took them from sixth place to first. The one disappointment for Billy Bremner's team was that only 2,717 people saw them do it.

The biggest winners of the day were **Scarborough**, who beat **Halifax Town** 4-1, while **Hereford United** came from behind to win 2-1 at **Wrexham**.

HOCKEY

President's line-up holds the edge

By Sydney Friskin

Cheam 1
President's XI 2

PERSISTENT rain and a strong wind did not deter the participants in the annual Boxing Day match which ended once again in a win for the Cheam President's XI over the club first XI yesterday on the artificial turf pitch at the Old Walcountians ground at Carshalton Road, Woodmansterne.

It was only in the early minutes of the second half, when the rain ceased, that either side was able to settle into an effective pattern of play, the general feeling being that it was more difficult to play with the wind than against it.

The club side was forced to play with ten men, Gary Thompson having failed to turn out although it was reported that he was on his way.

Within three minutes of the start, Iswaria took advantage of the gap in Cheam's defence by bursting through on his own to put the President's XI ahead. Despite the promptings of David Bennett at centre-half and the unflagging effort of Glasford on the right wing, Cheam were unable to redress the balance by the time the interval arrived.

The lead was increased within three minutes of the resumption of play from a short corner, the first of the match, the ball having been cleverly worked by Oakes across the width of the circle to Marchant, who scooped it into the net.

Peter Sudell, Cheam's short corner specialist, had no luck with his first attempt a couple of minutes later. But in the eleventh minute of this period, he beat Myers in goal with a strong hit.

However, the President's XI, testing the theory that attack is the best means of defence, put Miles, in goal, under heavy pressure. He stood up to it with fortitude to avoid what might have been an avalanche of goals. This was how the match ended, a fitting tribute to the memory of Richard Hollands, a former hockey correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph*.

CHEAM: M Miles; P Sudell, R Champion, N Martin, M Lees, D Bennett, A Knightingale, T Glasford, J Agece, S Bull.
PRESIDENT'S XI: J Myers (Guildford); R Oakes (Purley), I Pinks (Sevenoaks), L Pettifer (Surbiton), W Davis (Wimbledon), S Cox (Slough), G Marchant (Richmond), T Oddy (Guildford), R Iswaria (Purley), J Molloy (Surbiton), M Allcock (Hounslow).
Umpires: L Allen (Southern Counties), C Burton (Southern Counties).

Huggon on hand to tip balance

MARTYN Grimley's home-coming brought no luck to Cheshire, who lost the Boxing Day Trophy to Lancashire for the first time in five years at the Liverpool Sefton Club yesterday (Sydney Friskin writes).

With the score at 1-1 in the senior match of the series, Grimley failed with a penalty stroke to get the better of Lancashire's substitute goalkeeper, Peter Williams, who had replaced Grove. Lancashire eventually winning 2-1.

After a blank first half in which the goalkeepers of both sides had played exceptionally well, Cheshire went ahead in the eighth minute of the second spell with a well-taken goal by Steve Green, who dived to make contact with a centre from the right, after the move had been initiated by Bob Crutchley.

Lancashire redressed the balance with a goal by Gary Ward in the twentieth minute from a short corner, which was followed soon after by Grimley's unavailing penalty stroke.

It was left to a substitute forward, Peter Huggon, from Preston, to win the game for Lancashire four minutes before the end and break Cheshire's run of successes.

It took considerable effort on the part of the ground staff to transfer the senior match to the No. 2 pitch on a day when driving rain and strong winds made playing conditions difficult.

In fact, the under-21 match between the two sides had to be abandoned after 20 minutes. The veterans match, played earlier in the day, ended 1-1, so that everything depended on the outcome of the senior game.

Top seeds

Perth (AP) — David Wheaton and Zina Garrison, the Americans, are the top seeds for the 12-nation Hopman Cup team tennis championship, which begins today at the Burswood Superdome.

ATHLETICS

Barnes awaits the verdict

NEW YORK (Reuter) — A decision on the appeal by the American shot putter, Randy Barnes, against a two-year suspension for drug taking has been delayed.

"We decided we needed more information before we could make a decision, but under the rules I cannot tell you what that information is," Cliff Wiley, a member of the review panel, said yesterday.

Barnes, the world record holder, and fellow-American Butch Reynolds, the 400-metre world record holder, were suspended for two years by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) on November 5 after testing positive for steroids

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

Specialist coaching planned

WITH improvements in the standards of coaching crucial to the international success of Britain's sports men and women with disabilities, any practical encouragement for coaches is always welcome (Jane Wyatt writes). So the funding of a three-year development programme by Post Office Counters, which includes a coaching initiative, is being enthusiastically supported by some of Britain's top athletes including Linford Christie, Yvonne Murray and Steve Backley.

The programme is being run jointly by the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) and the British Sports Association for the Disabled (BSAD) who are holding disability awareness days around the country.

Yvonne Murray, the 3,000 metres gold medal winner in the European championships in Split, has personal experience of the sessions, where able-bodied coaches are given an intensive introduction to the needs of an athlete with a disability and the specialist coaching techniques required.

Murray has no doubt about the value of the awareness days. She said: "Now that athletes with a disability are being encouraged to train at able-bodied clubs, it is extremely important that club coaches are able to meet their needs." This is especially crucial with the Barcelona Paralympics only 18 months away if British athletes are to improve on their 62 gold medals in the Seoul Games.

In the new year the BAAB-BSAD programme will concentrate on education and the finalisation of a framework for the integration of athletes with disabilities into athletics clubs.

Further coaching awareness days are planned for Belfast, Jarrow, Stoke Mandeville and Sheffield and any coaches interested in developing their teaching skills with regard to athletes with disabilities are encouraged to attend.

IN BRIEF

Andries is under fire

BILL Mordey, the boxing promoter, yesterday accused the world light-heavyweight champion, Dennis Andries, of seeking to pull out of his defence against Guy Waters on January 19 and called on the World Boxing Council to strip him of the title if he does.

Mordey said Andries, a Briton based in the United States, was contracted to defend against Waters, an Australian, in Adelaide but was refusing to co-operate with the promotion. "Andries and his management refuse to tell us about their travel plans, say they want a say in the appointment of the officials," Mordey said. "It seems to me they don't want to fight in Australia and are looking for excuses.

REAL TENNIS: Robert Fahey, from Australia, last year's losing finalist, is the No. 1 seed for the Duncan Lawrie British under-24 championship at the Queen's Club. Mark Devine, the Leamington assistant professional, is the No. 2 seed.

CYCLING: Glenn Longland, Britain's 12-hour time-trial record-holder with 291.7 miles, won the 10-mile New Forest event yesterday, in 24min 31sec, finishing 59 seconds clear of Clive Brooks.

BOWLS

Price faces Evans with record cash in view

By David Rhys Jones

THE DRAW for the Midland Bank world indoor singles championship at Preston from February 2 to 24, shows that John Price, the holder and top seed, will face an early test from John Evans, the England qualifier.

Overseas bowlers, despite limited experience on carpet, have cut an increasingly high profile in the world championships and Ian Schuback will be keen to improve on the two silver medals he took back to Australia last winter.

Robbie Parrella, from Brisbane, has been drawn to play Graham Robertson, one of the United Kingdom's most successful players, while a third Australian, Trevor Morris, takes on the 1988 champion, Hugh Duff.

The record £130,000 prize fund includes £22,500 for the winner of the singles and £11,000 for the pairs champions. They open their bid with a match against a couple of crown green bowlers, John Bonatti and Derek Forrester, from North Wales.

Bryant is disappointed that the world championships clash with the regional play-offs of the England champion of champions event, for which he has qualified.

"I would have liked to have had a crack at this prestigious national event, because it is one I have never won," Bryant said.

DRAW: First round (seedings in brackets): Singles: J Price (Wales, 1) v J Evans (Eng); J Baker (Ire, 16) v T McLean (Scot); M McMahon (HK, 9) v J Henry (Ire); D Bryant (Eng, 8) v R Johnston (Aus); R Parrella (Aus, 5) v G Robertson (Scot); S Rees (Wales, 12) v M Symes (NZ); R Corsie (Scot, 13) v L Tanner (Wales); H Duff (Scot, 4) v T Morris (Aus); I Schuback (Aus, 3) v R Jones (Can); J Muir (Scot, 14) v R Brassey (NZ); W Richards (Eng, 11) v A Wallace (Can); W Wood (Scot, 6) v A Welch (Guer); G Smith (Eng, 7) v J McMullan (Ire); D S Corkill (Ire, 10) v P Rowland (Wales); A E Thomson (Eng, 15) v B Baldwin (NZ); T Allcock (Eng, 2) v I Bruce (Scot).

Pairs: T Allcock and D Bryant (Eng, 1) v J Bonatti and D Forrester (Wales); D Corkill and J McMullan (Ire, 8) v J Downey and C Lewis (Wales); R Brassey and M Symes (NZ, 5) v T Scott and D Webb (Eng); J Price and S Rees (Wales, 4) v B Baldwin (NZ) and M McMahon (HK); G Smith and A E Thomson (Eng, 3) v R Jones and A Wallace (Can); R Corsie and W Wood (Scot, 6) v J Baker and M Craig (Ire); H Dugg and S Rankin (Scot, 6) v R Parrella and R Johnston (Aus); T Morris and I Schuback (Aus, 2) v A Welch (Guer) and N McGhee (Scot).

FOR THE RECORD

ICE HOCKEY

DAVOS, Switzerland: Spengler Cup: Team Canada 3, Spartak Moscow 2.

CYCLING

TIME-TRIALS: New Forest (10 miles): 1, G Longland (Antelope), 24min 31sec; 2, C Brooks (Polytechnic), 25:23; equal 3, M Ashurst (Leicester), G Pickford (Bournemouth Arrow), 25:52. Team: Antelope. Ringmead CCA (10 miles): 1, S Dengerfield (Wolverhampton), 23:05; 2, M Norman (Solihull), 24:14; 3, T Wilkes (Pembroke), 25:58.
CYCLO-CROSS: Coventry RC (12 miles): 1, G Cotman (Ridgeback), 1hr 10min 46sec; 2, J Schwoller (Ger), at 1min 12sec; 3, S Knight (Halesowen), at 1:54. Crabwood (12 miles): 1, S Clarke (Raleigh), 1hr 0min 23sec; 2, S Blunt (Wembley), at 4min 10sec; 3, A McDonald (Europa), at 4:20.

ATHLETICS

CHESTER: 4.3-mile road race: 1, B Hussain (Stockport Harriers), 20min 58sec; 2, J Hartigan (Tipton Harriers), 20:55; 3, N O'Brien (Bradford AC), 21:03. Women: L Mackison (Sale), 25:06.
BARNSLEY: Ward Green 6-mile road race: 1, D Tune (City of Hull AC), 29:15; 2, P Shaw (Sheffield AC), 29:34; 3, P Venables (Sheffield AC), 29:37. Women: S Bowler (Pendistone Harriers), 38:32.

CRICKET

CURRIE CUP: Johannesburg: Transvaal 270-5 (N Wright 61) v Natal; Port Elizabeth: Eastern Province 300-8 dec (M Rutherford 159); Orange Free State 8-1; Cape Town: Northern Transvaal 235 (M Hayward 72); Western Province 16-3.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

MONTGOMERY, Alabama: College all-star game: Blue 17, Gray 14.
HONOLULU: Aloha Bowl: Syracuse 28, Arizona 0.

SNOW REPORTS

SCOTLAND: Cairngorms: snow level, 2,150ft; vertical rate, 1,000ft. Runs: upper, complete, new snow on firm base; middle, mainly complete, narrow, new snow; lower, patches only. Access roads closed; chairlifts, one open; tows, two-open.
● Information supplied by the Scottish Meteorological Office.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Chicago Bulls 99, Detroit Pistons 88.

● RUGBY UNION 23
● RACING 24-25
● FOOTBALL 26-27

SPORT

Concern mounts about Stewart

MELBOURNE — Micky Stewart, the England team manager, will be examined by a doctor here today for the second time in six days amid growing concern about his health.

Stewart, aged 58, was unable to watch his side's battling performance against Australia on the first day of the second Test match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground because of another bad headache.

"Micky attended the 8am team meeting in the hotel but he was still not feeling that good and we advised him to go back to his room," the tour manager, Peter Lush, said.

Stewart has been suffering from headaches since late last week when he spent 24 hours in a Melbourne hospital undergoing tests. His problems had started a few days earlier with numbness in the right leg, soon after he had apparently recovered from a chest infection. The check-up revealed nothing untoward.

"It is now thought the headaches might be connected with the original viral infection and nothing to do with the tests he had in hospital, which can have side effects," Lush said. Stewart has spent most of the past two days in bed and has not taken a practice since last Thursday.

England, meanwhile, picked up another two injuries today to add to their growing collection. Mike Atherton, hit on a finger, and the captain, Graham Gooch, who twisted an ankle, are both under treatment from the physiotherapist, Lawrie Brown.

⊖ David Gower, who passed 3,000 runs in Ashes Tests on the first day, resumed his innings today needing another 165 runs to become the sixth batsman to pass 8,000 runs in all Tests. The others are Gavaskar (10,122), Border (8,710), Boycott (8,114), Javed Miandad (8,064) and Sobers (8,032).

Gower's survival instinct to fore

From ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
MELBOURNE

THE popular conception of David Gower as a man happiest in langour and lethargy was surely destroyed yesterday. For the third time in 18 months he confronted a serious threat to his Test career with a tenacious innings and, this time, the gain was not exclusively his.

Christmas had found this England party at its lowest ebb and Gower showing his shortest fuse. England could barely perm 11 fully fit men from their swollen party of 18 for the critical second Test against Australia and Gower, unable to shake off his second injury in a month, publicly bared his frustration at a tour slipping away from him.

His outburst during the Christmas morning net practice was not so much about insensitive television crews as a sensitively bruised right wrist which had refused to heal. By the time he dressed up as Biggles for the team's lunch party it seemed unlikely that he would be performing any Boxing Day heroics.

But Gower's sense of self-preservation has served him well before. At Lord's last June, when his captaincy was being undermined by the threat of a heavy defeat and a hotheaded walkout from a press conference, he made a redeeming century. At the Oval in September he took the last available chance to reserve his place on this tour with another hawkish hundred.

Yesterday morning, he played with some discomfort through a gentle net, spent a considerable time in lonely meditation on the Melbourne Cricket Ground outfield and then went into a prolonged, animated conference with Graham Gooch and Allan Lamb which ended in backslaps and handshakes all round.

Gooch had told Gower that the team needed him. Gower had told Gooch that he wanted to play and felt able to do a job. The deal was done, and with the aid of regular painkilling tablets, Gower batted 203 minutes and helped revive this Ashes series as a contest.

It is too soon to say more than this. By the standards to which we have become accustomed these past few weeks, England enjoyed a champagne first day which reduced 50,000 Australians, who had come to pick at the Christmas carcass, to a subdued and respectful silence. By any normal standards it was an evenly fought opening day which left both teams believing they had a chance.

What can be said with certainty is that it was a good toss for Gooch to have won, this being a pitch of placid pace and bounce which may even take turn later, and that England's overnight 239 for four was actually worth 20 or 30 more. The outfield, recently relaid after a punishing season of Australian Rules football, was so spongy and slow that the boundary was reached only 15 times in a day containing 17 threes and one all-run four. Of Gower's first 20 runs, 18 came in threes for shots he would normally have expected to carry easily to the rope.

England's other main contributor was one who profited from the injury dilemma. Wayne Larkins would not have made the side if Lamb had been fit and, even reprieved, he was obliged to abdicate his opening spot and drop reluctantly to No. 3. It turned out to be the making of him.

Atherton, preferred as Gooch's partner, continued his disappointing first tour by falling to Reid without scoring. It was the classic example of how a left-arm bowler generating a little extra bounce can disorientate the most correct of players; Atherton was square-on and playing too low as the ball climbed into his glove and looped to short leg.

Gooch leg-before to Alderman is not the most curious of dismissals, having featured in three of the 1989 Tests, but Gooch will be doubly deflated to fall this way here, as he misjudged an inswinger badly enough to play no shot. At 30 for two, the customary calamities seemed to beckon.

Allan Border, the Australia captain, had been speaking before the game of showing England no mercy but that is what, unintentionally, he now proceeded to do. Larkins was at sea against Reid, playing awkwardly across the line and squirting the ball into the off side, and he must hardly have been able to credit his luck when the left-armer was rested after only five overs.

None of the other bowlers posed Larkins the same problems and, by lunch, he and Smith had added 59 with increasing conviction. With Larkins's footwork more emphatic than at any stage of the tour, this was a partnership one could see developing but, at 109, Smith played forward to Hughes and the ball took a deflection as it darted between bat and pad.

Border now showed his innovative side. Alderman, bowling inswingers to Larkins, had a silly mid-off and two men short, in front of the wicket, on the leg side. Hughes, angling the ball across Gower, operated to a seven-two off-side field including two gulleys and a predatory short extra-cover.

Deservedly, however, it was Reid who claimed Larkins's wicket, albeit with a ball wide of the off stump, which provoked an unworthily flat-footed drive.

In four previous Tests on the Melbourne ground Gower had failed to reach 50, a surprising statistic for someone with a splendid record against Australia. When he did so yesterday, he became only the second Englishman, after Jack Hobbs, to complete 3,000 runs in Ashes Tests.

Superficially cool, internally fretful, Gower chided himself for every indiscretion and Alec Stewart for every error as the fourth-wicket stand carried England towards a position they had hardly dared contemplate when play began.

By the close, glory be, even the luck which had appeared to have left them in recent weeks had returned, Stewart surviving two half-chances by dint of the fielders he accidentally located, and Gower escaping a confident leg-before claim by Reid.

MELBOURNE SCOREBOARD

England won toss

ENGLAND

*G A Gooch lbw b Alderman	20	–	2	39	33
Playing no shot, ball brushed pad					
M A Atherton c Boon b Reid	0	–	–	15	11
Turned short ball straight to short leg					
W Larkins c Healy b Reid	64	–	5	218	145
Aiming drive at ball wide of off stump					
R A Smith c Healy b Hughes	30	–	3	121	86
Faint edge went between bat and pad					
D I Gower not out	73	–	4	203	134
A J Stewart not out	42	–	2	130	103
Extras (lb 2, nb 8)	10				
Total (4 wkts, 84 overs, 365min)	239				

†R C Russell, P A J DeFreitas, A R C Fraser, P C R Tufnell and D E Malcolm to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12 (Gooch 11), 2-80 (Larkins 8), 3-109 (Larkins 53), 4-152 (Gower 32).

BOWLING: Alderman 22-5-50-1 (nb2) (10-2-20-1), (7-2-16-0), (5-1-14-0); Reid 23-3-71-2 (nb1) (5-0-24-1), (7-2-12-0), (8-0-24-1), (3-1-11-0); Hughes 22-4-66-1 (nb5) (5-2-15-0), (7-2-18-1), (3-0-10-0), (8-0-23-0); Matthews 11-4-31-0 (4-0-24-0), (7-4-7-0); Waugh 6-2-19-0 (one spell).

AUSTRALIA: G R Marsh, M A Taylor, D C Boon, D M Jones, *A R Border, S R Waugh, G R J Matthews, †I A Healy, M G Hughes, T M Alderman, B A Reid.

Umpires: A R Crafter and P J McConnell.

GRAHAM MORRIS

Unexpected bounty: Larkins, a late replacement for the injured Lamb, drives past Alderman in his best innings for England

Weather takes its toll

EIGHT Football League matches fell foul of the unseasonal Boxing Day weather yesterday, two in the third division and six in the fourth. Most were postponed because of waterlogged pitches but Torquay United's match with Lincoln City was called off because of storms.

Oldham's rugby league match at home to Rochdale went ahead after police closed two areas of the ground and moved 2,000 suporters amid fears the wind could blow the roof off the main stand. Five Stones Bitter championship matches did not go ahead and the Bank holiday club rugby union programme was also hit.

The day's eight race meetings all survived, although at Wolverhampton the stewards delayed the start of the third race while they held an inspection in strong winds and heavy rain. Racing continued, but with the remaining races starting 15 minutes late. At Market Rasen a downpour held up racing for 20 minutes halfway through card.

Grobbelaar act of charity

By CLIVE WHITE

Queen's Park Rangers.. 1
Liverpool..... 1

BRUCE Grobbelaar, responding to the seasonal mood of goodwill to all men, gave hope to those at both ends of the first division yesterday with an own-goal which enabled Queen's Park Rangers to clinch only their second point out of a possible 30 at Loftus Road yesterday.

The Liverpool goalkeeper had already hinted that he was in one of his more extravagant moods when a header in the 67th minute by Mark Falco struck the inside of his far post only to rebound obligingly. But as he stooped to collect, the ball bounced off his shins into the net.

A draw, Rangers's second in succession, was no more than the struggling London club deserved. Indeed, during a rousing finale they even threatened to win as Liverpool's defence assumed that occasional harassed look under pressure. Rangers, consequently, became only the fourth club this season to take points off Liverpool.

It did not prevent Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, from muttering afterwards something about leaving Rangers dead and buried had Liverpool taken their chances while ignoring the fact that Rangers had one or two of their own. Unlike his goalkeeper, Dalglish was not in a mood to be charitable towards Rangers, of whom he said: "They'll have to win some games to give themselves a wee bit of confidence."

But this draw will have been as good as a victory to Rangers' morale, suddenly uplifted since the arrival of Bobby Gould, as assistant to Don Howe, and two new signings at centre back in Tillson and Peacock. The latter, who did not play yesterday, has become, all too quickly, a victim of the wicked misfortune with injuries which has curiously manifested itself among Rangers' central defenders.

Try as he might, though, Howe could not suppress the optimism that he and his players must surely be feeling. Though again they came off second best in the first half, they kept their goal intact, a rare achievement these days, and had the half's outstanding goal-scoring chance when Wegerle headed towards an empty net after Grobbelaar had horribly mispunched Falco's lofted pass. But Nicol got back in the nick of time to clear his line.

It seemed inconceivable, though, that with Rush, by his own admission in the best form of his life, Liverpool would not eventually strike lucky. To play as well as Rush did, in all facets of a forward's game, with such an abrasive marker as Maddix in close attendance, took some doing. Before the half was out Maddix's frustration had vented itself in a foul upon the Welshman for which he was booked.

By comparison, Barnes had done nothing when three minutes after half-time Staunton sent him in pursuit of a ball played through the inside left channel. Stejskal, the Rangers goalkeeper, fearing that Tillson would not arrive in time to make the interception, raced from his goal-line only to be beaten to the ball by Barnes who touched it just inside the far post.

Grobbelaar should not be held entirely responsible for Rangers' equaliser; Falco was in splendid isolation when he received Sinton's perfect cross. His subtle, flicked header, reminiscent of so many he has scored down the years, deserved a goal which, doubtless, he will claim "like any good forward" as Dalglish remarked later.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS: J Stejskal; D Bardsley, K Sansom, A Tillson, G Cascar, D Maddix, R Wilkins, S Barker, M Falco, R Wegerle, A Sinton.
LIVERPOOL: B Grobbelaar; G Hysen, D Burrows, S Nicol, S Staunton, G Gillespie, R Rosenthal, R Houghton, I Rush, J Barnes, S McMahon.
Referee: J Martin.

Arsenal close gap, page 26

First division leaders

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	18	14	3	1	36	15	45
*Arsenal	19	12	7	0	36	9	41
C Palace	19	11	6	2	30	18	39
Leeds Utd	19	10	6	3	33	18	36
Tottenham	19	9	6	4	33	22	33
†Man Utd	19	9	5	5	29	21	31
Chelsea	19	8	5	6	33	35	29
Man City	18	6	8	4	27	26	26
Norwich	19	8	2	9	24	31	26
Wimbledon	19	6	7	6	29	28	25

* deducted 2pts
† deducted 1pt

Waddle will stay put

CHRIS Waddle, the England player, yesterday dismissed talk of an early return to his first club, Newcastle United, but the Marseilles forward, who will get a free transfer when his contract ends, would not rule out a move back to Newcastle in the longer term.

Waddle, who watched Newcastle's 1-1 draw with Swindon yesterday, said: "Every time I come back I seem to be signing for Newcastle United. But I know nothing about any move and it's all pie in the sky as far as I am concerned. Marseilles are four points clear at the top of the French League with two games in hand and still in the European Cup, so why should I want to leave?

"The only way I would leave Marseilles at the moment is if they do not want me."

Desert Orchid in historic triumph

By RICHARD EVANS

DESERT Orchid silenced his doubters in glorious style yesterday with a record-breaking fourth victory in the King George VI Rank Chase at Kempton Park.

The thrilling sight of the nation's favourite racehorse spreadeagling the opposition with spring-heeled jumping and late acceleration will remain etched in the memories of the large Boxing Day crowd for years. He beat Toby Tobias by 12 lengths with The Fellow, the French challenger, a further five lengths third.

David Elsworth deserves immense credit for an outstanding training performace, and he was as moved as anyone when the crowd hailed Desert Orchid's return to the winner's enclosure with a deafening roar. With tears welling in his eyes, the Whitsbury trainer said: "It was wonderful. Like most people here I am very proud and excited.

"There was nothing flashy about the performance. He was tired a long way out — a lot of them were — but he kept finding more and kept jumping. I am sure that even at his age he will improve between now and the spring. He is a great horse, a magical horse."

Desert Orchid, who has now topped £500,000 in winning prize-money, will be aimed for the Cheltenham Gold Cup for which he is a best-priced 8-1 with Corals. Elsworth ruled out the Grand National.

The race was effectively decided seven fences from home when Sabin Du Loir fell, having been three lengths clear and travelling well. For a dreadful moment Elsworth feared his charge would be brought down but Desert Orchid sidestepped his sprawling rival and set off for home.

Dunwoody allowed his mount a breather before entering the straight about three lengths clear of Toby Tobias. Desert Orchid then quickened and, like so often before, left his challengers trailing in his wake.

After the pre-race doubts and fears, talk of retirement gave way to hopes and plans for the future. Both Elsworth and Richard Burridge, his owner, talked of returning to Kempton in 12 months time to try and win the King George for a fifth time. "Every time the Press doubts him, it is like a green light to Desert Orchid. It inspires him to go on," Burridge said. "This horse is much better at writing stories than I am. The next twist in the tale will be entirely of his own making."

Racing, pages 24-25

Adams can await kind verdict from the public

By GEORGE SIK

COMMENT

THEY say there is no such thing as bad publicity. This is not merely bombastic after-dinner wisdom: there is considerable psychological evidence to support it. Next time you hear a politician complain about an election campaign being undermined by smear stories in the press, tell him to check out his standing in the polls before the mud was slung. The chances are that he was doing worse than he was after the smears. Just getting your name known is usually enough to win you votes.

Tony Adams was sent to prison for four months for reckless and drunken driving. How will he fare when he is released? Only time will tell, but history is on his side. Lester Piggott is racing again with his past all but forgotten. Ben Johnson runs again next month, this time without anabolic steroids.

Who says mud sticks? Ken Dodd can now joke about the Inland Revenue, demand for Cecil Parkinson's speaking engagements shot up after news of his affair with his secretary, and Sir Ralph Halpern was in no hurry to deny reports of his "five times a night" fling with a model, Fiona Wright.

Has the mud *ever* stuck? Well, maybe with Willie Johnston after Scotland's terrible performance in the 1978 World Cup. He, too, was accused of taking stimulants and was never the same again. But those were less enlightened times. As for the league leaders, George Best and Alex Higgins, they continue to amuse us with each fresh indiscretion. Jimmy Greaves's recovery from alcoholism has won him the respect and affection of the nation.

But drunken driving? That is a serious offence, and Tony Adams may fare less well than some. He is not, after all, a particularly colourful character. He plays for a team known for its strength and organisation rather than its flair for the unexpected. He is not a Paul Gascoigne.

Gascoigne is extrovert and extroversion is one of the most studied psychological constructs. Extroverts are outgoing, impulsive and sociable. They love to be with people and play practical jokes. They are well liked. Not only is it almost impossible to imagine Gascoigne in Adams's position but it is hard to imagine that he would ever have received the condemnation that came the way of the Arsenal player.

Of course, Gascoigne *has* had troubles of one sort or another, but if they do not fit our perception of him as the kid with a heart of gold, they are forgotten.

Similarly, we could never really believe the allegations that Frank Bough or Drew Barrymore, the little girl in *ET*, snorted cocaine. They may have done, but somehow this does not fit. The resulting unease (cognitive dissonance, as we psychologists call it) is quickly dispelled, as our perception of the world appears to contradict reality and we forget their past.

Scandal is a funny thing in sport or in show business. They say it brought down the Macmillan government. They even say it brought down George Best. Best, though, is now as famous for his drinking as for once having been a great footballer, and he is not one to deny it. He has even worn a T-shirt with a slogan, "I drink to make other people more interesting".

His extroversion is different from Gascoigne's in one respect: where he hits the bottle, Gascoigne cries. This could reflect socially changing patterns of emotional control. These days sportsmen cry more openly. Chris Eubank, the boxer, and the former Scottish hardman, Joe Jordan, being recent examples.

The public has warmed to this openness. A recent survey conducted by the occupational psychologists, Saville and Holdsworth, for whom I work, revealed that men and women are no different in the degree to which they express their emotions.

This is where sympathy may be in short supply for Adams. He, and the Arsenal side for which he plays, have long been characterised as unexciting, unemotional, stiff-upper-lipped sportsmen. The public are less likely to feel sorry for this breed of player at a time when he needs it most.

● *Dr George Sik is a consultant psychologist with particular interest in personality and sport. He is a keen football supporter.*

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